



Dance in the
Wampire **Bund**
NOZOMU TAMAKI VOLUME 12

Tamaki Nozomu Presents Dance In The Vampire Bund 12

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND 12

NOZOMU TAMAKI

松明の如く汝の身より炎の爆ぜるとき
汝は知らず
その身を焦がしつつ自由の身とならんことを
汝の持てる全ては消滅する運命とならんことを

ただ灰と、地の底へと汝を導く
混迷だけが残されんことを

永遠の勝利の暁に
燃え残るの灰の奥底深く
燦然と輝ける
ダイヤモンドの残らんことを！

From you, as from burning chips of resin,
Fiery fragments circle far and near:
Ablaze, you don't know if you are to be free,
Or if all that is yours will disappear.

Will only ashes and confusion remain,
Leading into the abyss?—or will there be
In the depths of the ash a star-like diamond,
The dawning of eternal victory!

Cyprian kamis Norwid, Prolog-Tragedia fantastyczna

Dance In The Vampire Bund 12

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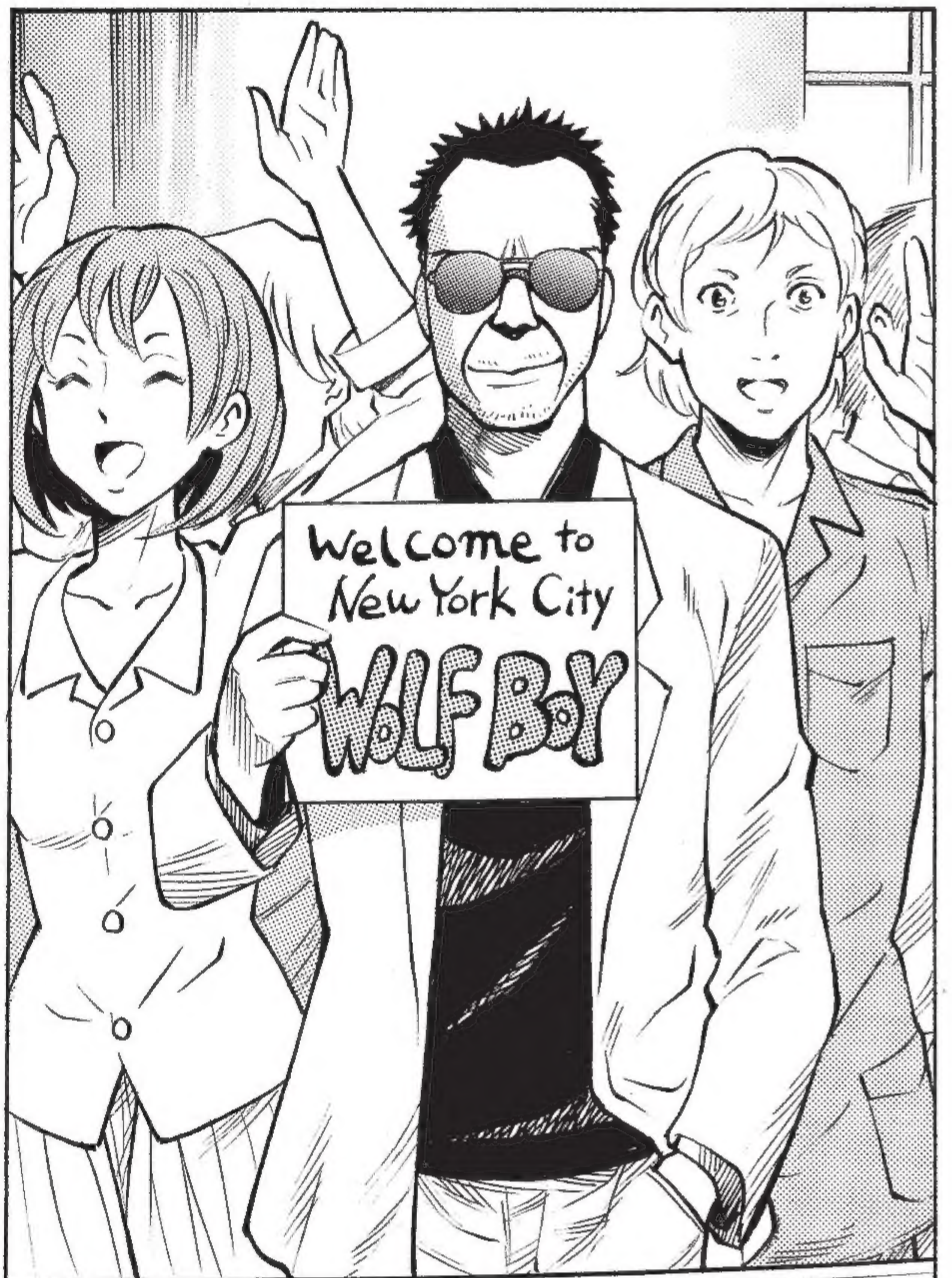
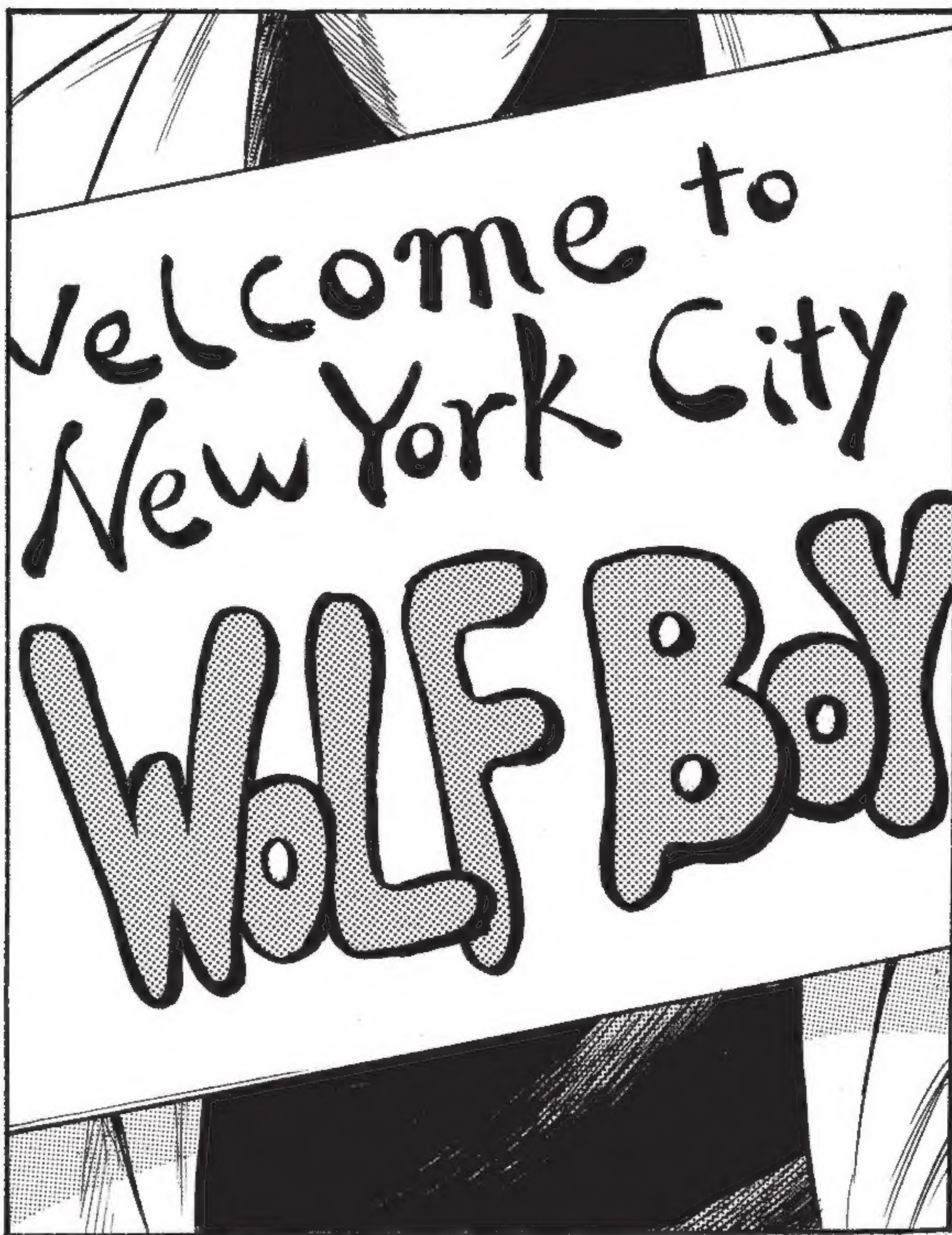
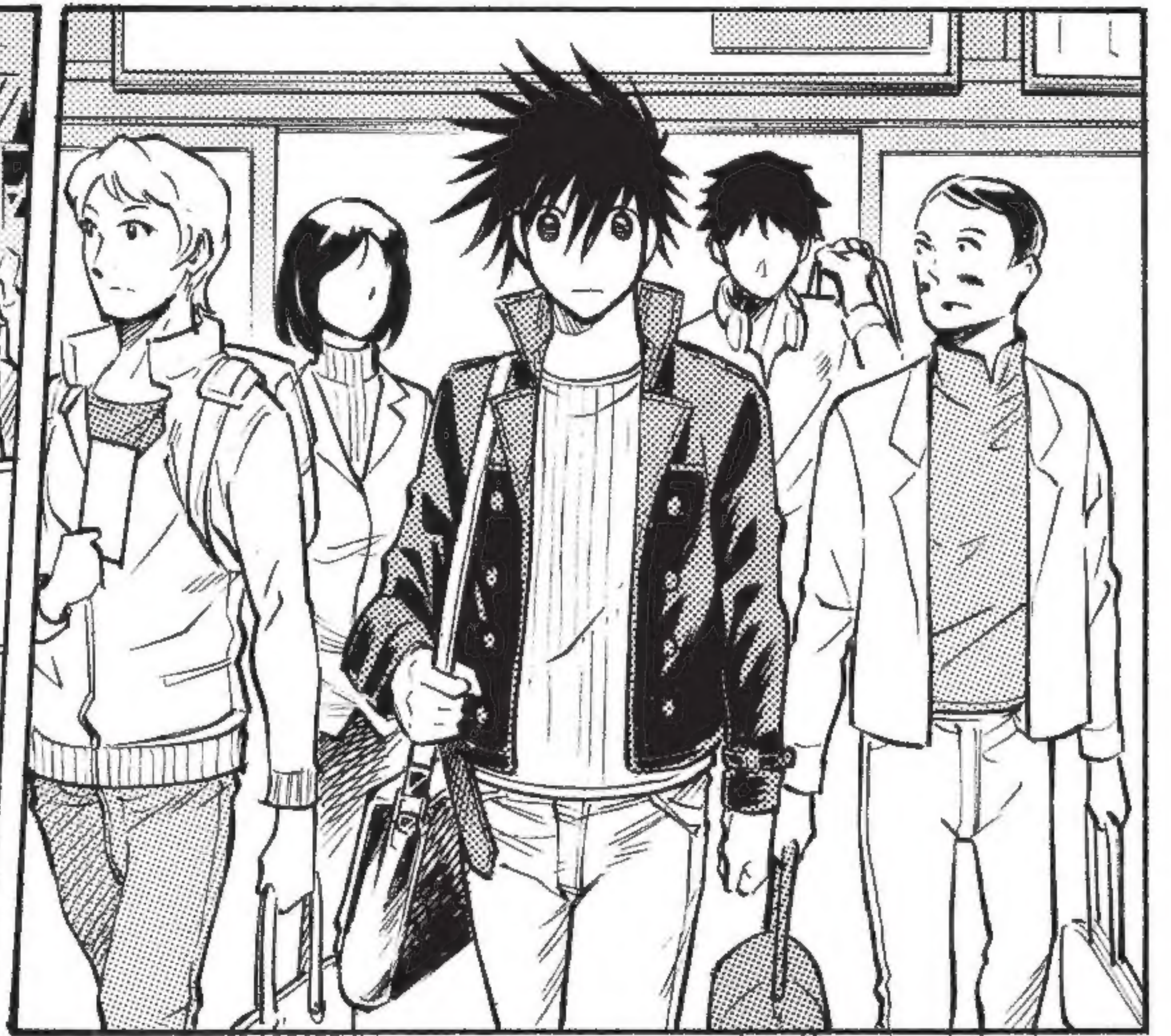
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will disappear. Will only ashes and
confusion remain, Leading into the



Chapter 65: New York, New York



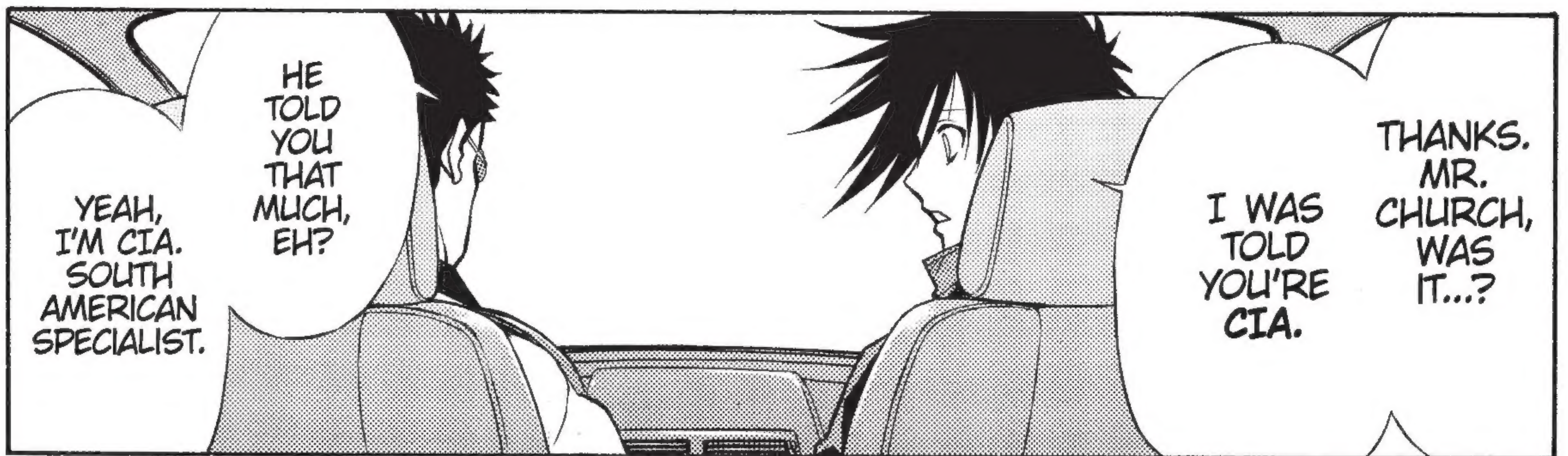


WELL, YOU'RE HERE NOW. HAMA ASKED ME TO HELP YOU. I OWE HIM ONE, SO I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.

STUCK ON A CARGO PLANE FROM JAPAN TO HAWAII...

THEN FLYING STAND-BY ON WHATEVER FLIGHT YOU COULD FIND...

DAMN, KID. I DON'T ENVY YOU AT ALL.



YEAH, I'M CIA. SOUTH AMERICAN SPECIALIST.

HE TOLD YOU THAT MUCH, EH?

I WAS TOLD YOU'RE CIA.

THANKS. MR. CHURCH, WAS IT...?



UH, NO OFFENSE, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY HAMA SENT ME TO YOU? I MEAN, SOUTH AMERICA ISN'T--



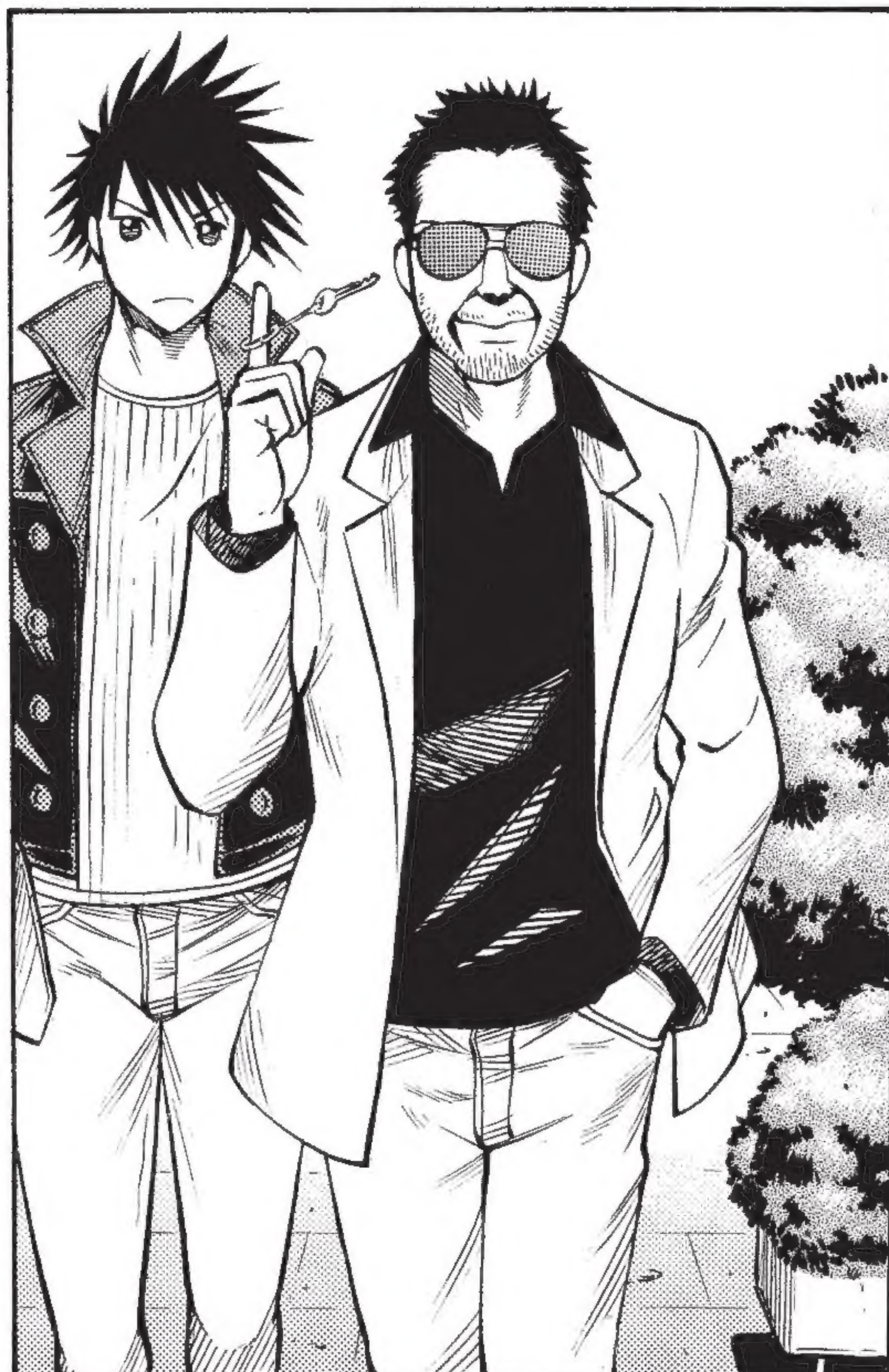
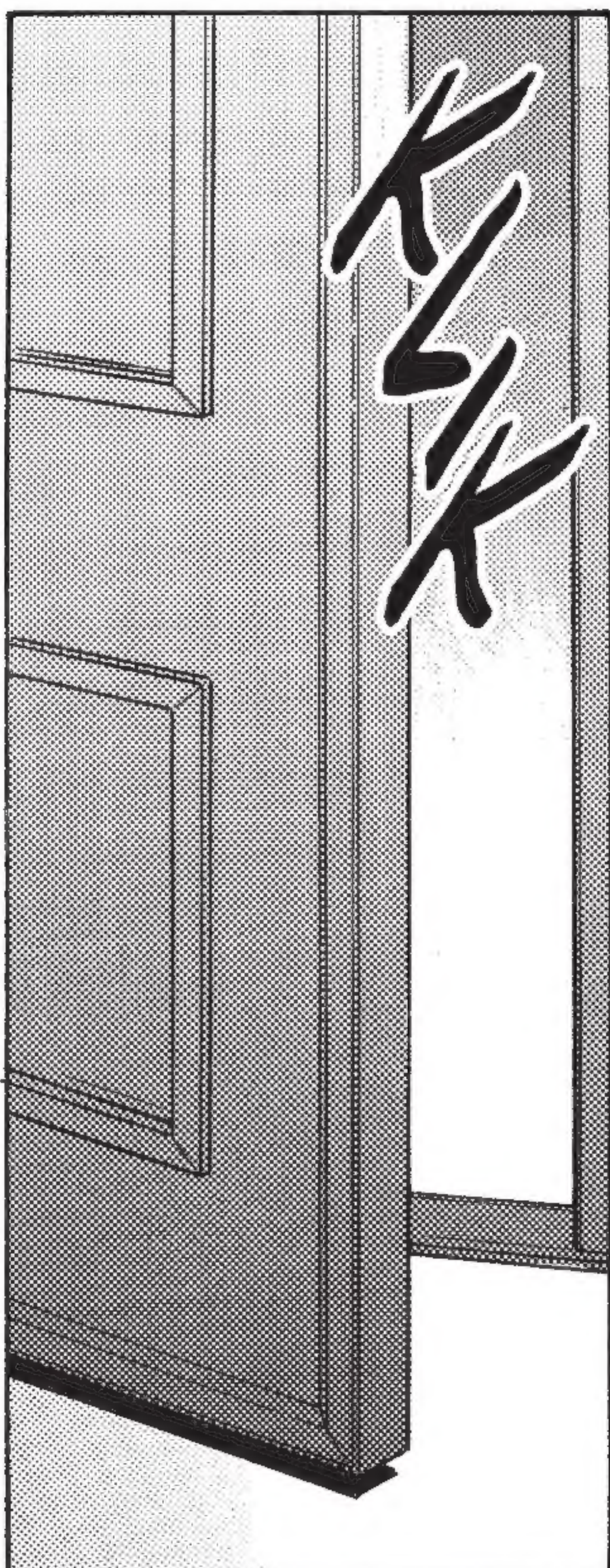
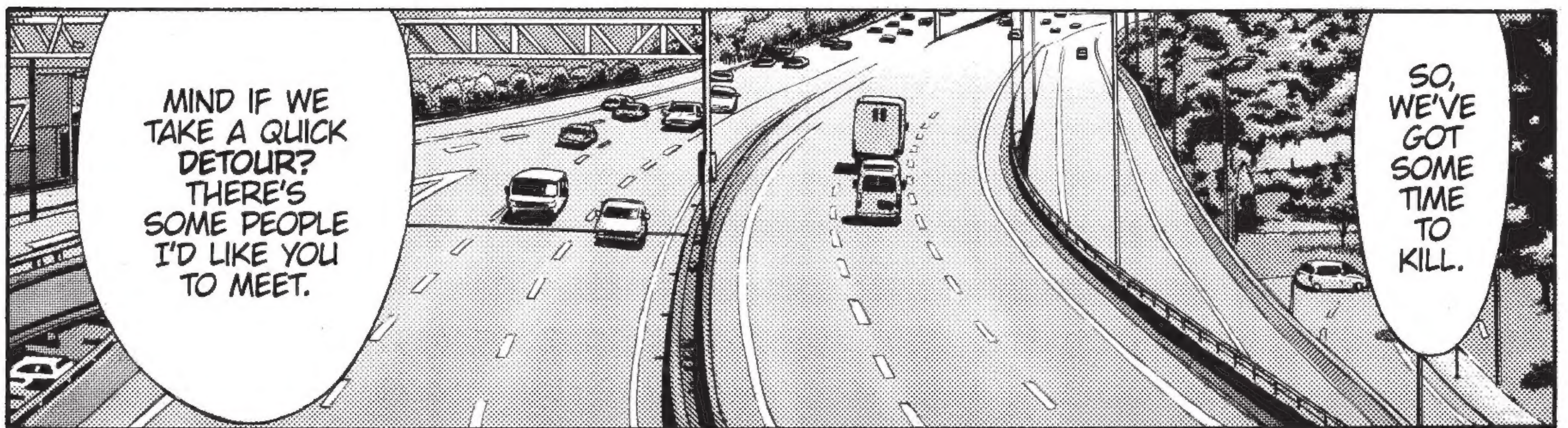
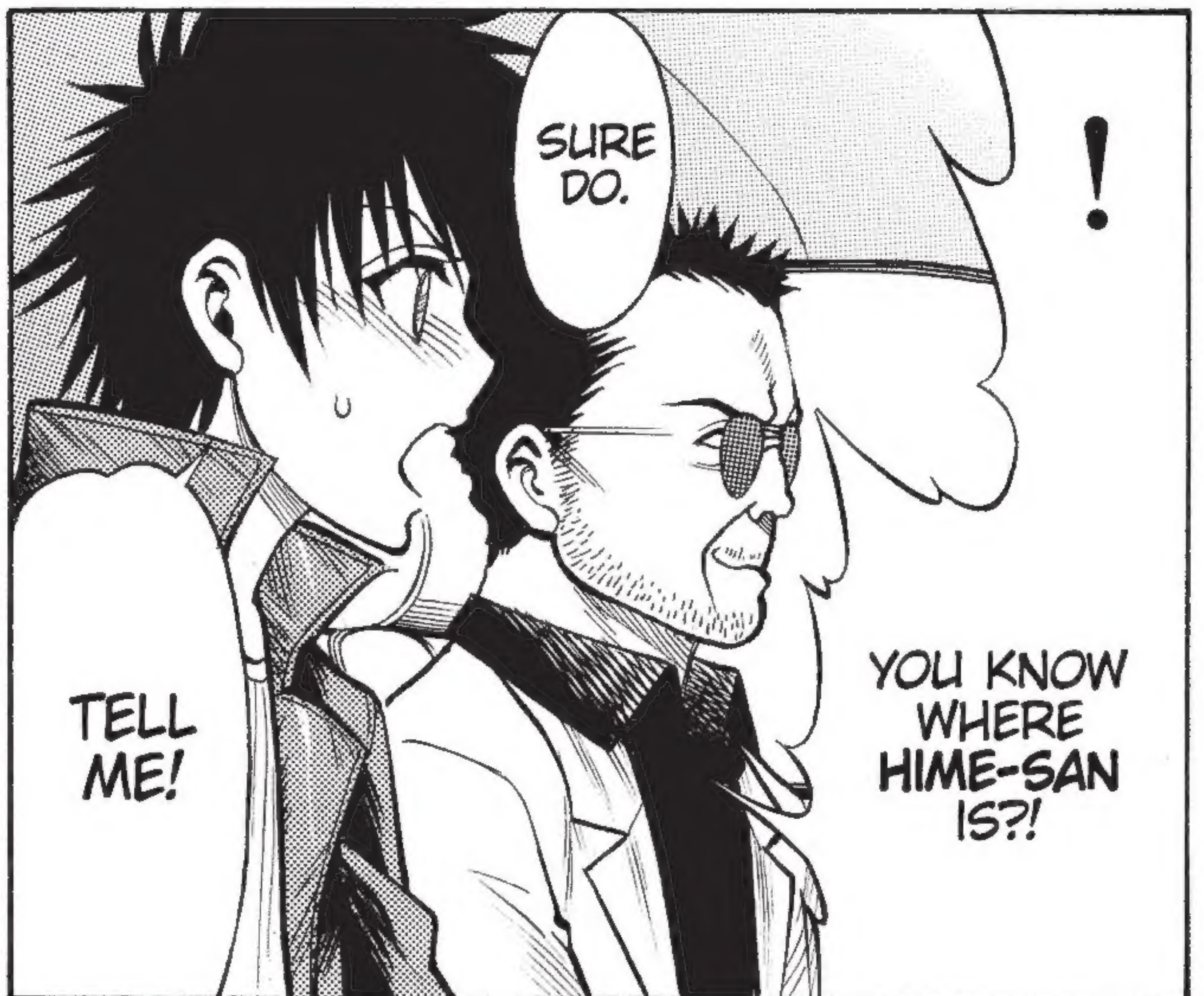
OH, BUT IT IS.

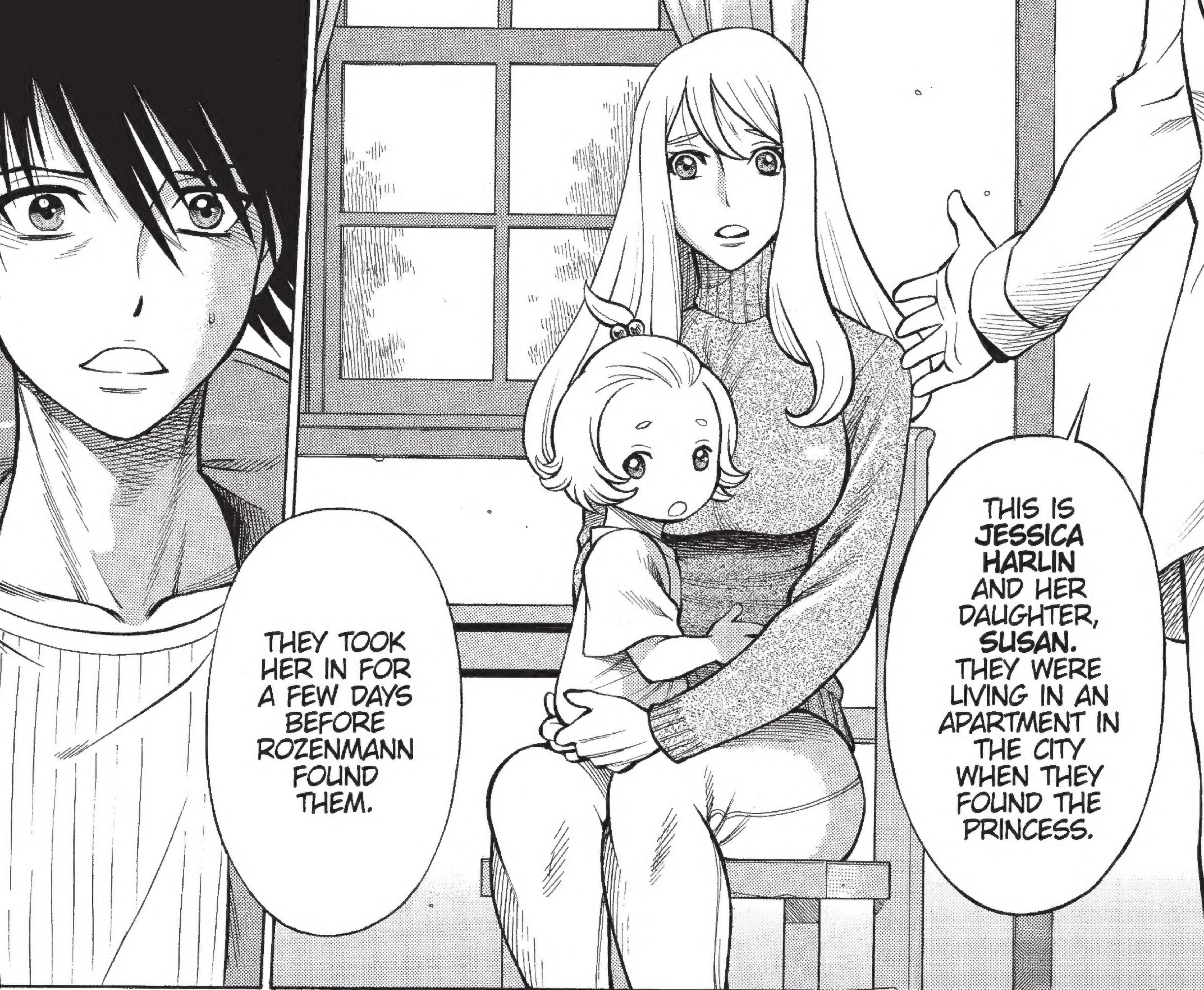
IT MIGHT SOUND A LITTLE FAR-FETCHED, BUT MY JURISDICTION DEFINITELY HAS A CONNECTION TO WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.



THAT'S WHERE HAMA AND I MET, Y'KNOW. MY SQUAD HOOKED UP WITH HIS TO TAKE DOWN THIS DRUG CARTEL IN BOGOTA.

WE'VE KEPT IN TOUCH EVER SINCE THEN.





THEY TOOK
HER IN FOR
A FEW DAYS
BEFORE
ROZENMANN
FOUND
THEM.

THIS IS
JESSICA
HARLIN
AND HER
DAUGHTER,
SUSAN.
THEY WERE
LIVING IN AN
APARTMENT IN
THE CITY
WHEN THEY
FOUND THE
PRINCESS.



I'VE
COME
TO
RESCUE
HER.

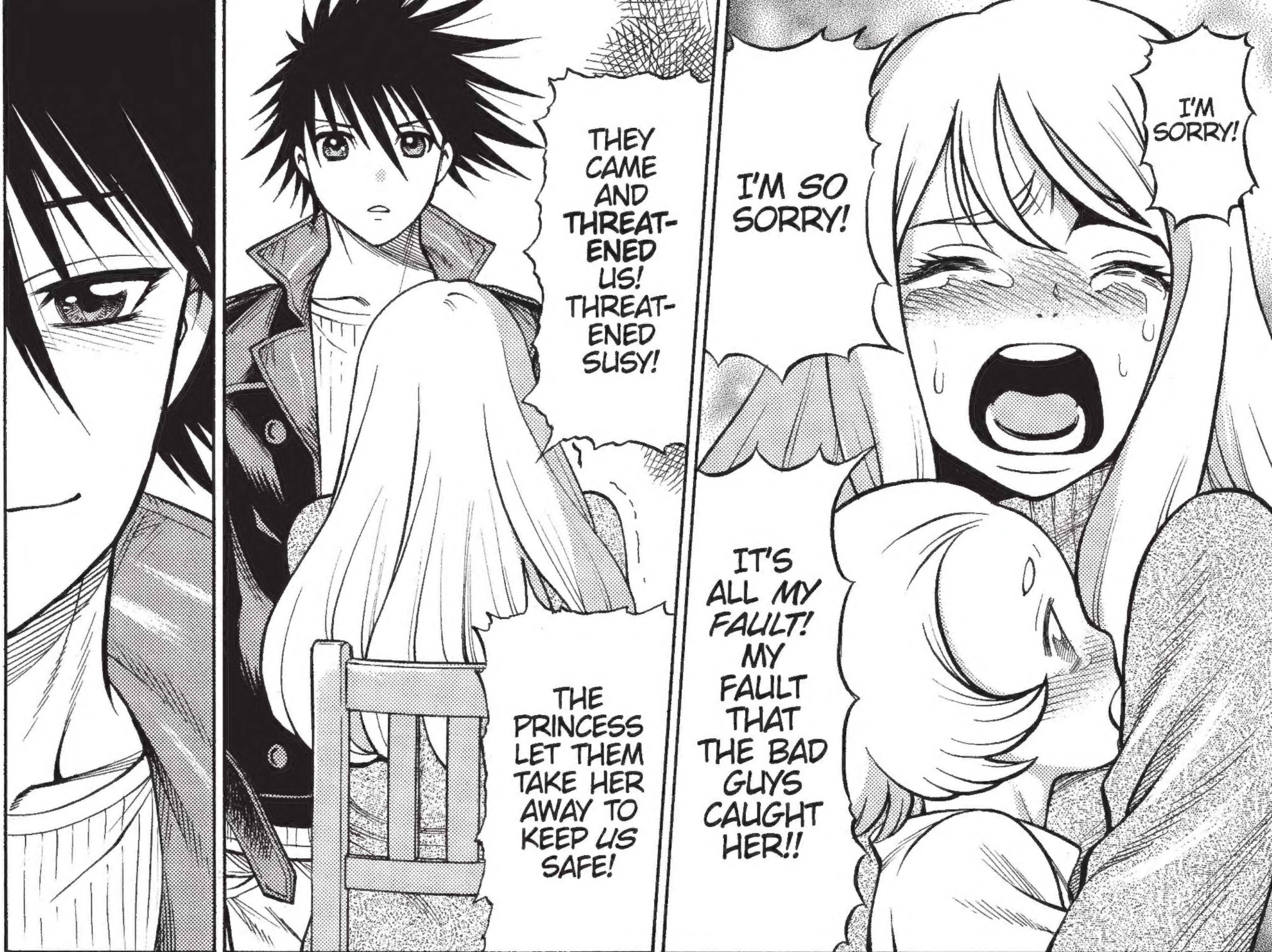
YES.
I
AM.



ARE
YOU,
LIM...

ARE
YOU ONE
OF THE
PRINCESS'...
UH,
SERVANTS
?





THEY CAME
AND
THREAT-
ENED
US! THREAT-
ENED
SUSY!

THE
PRINCESS
LET THEM
TAKE HER
AWAY TO
KEEP US
SAFE!

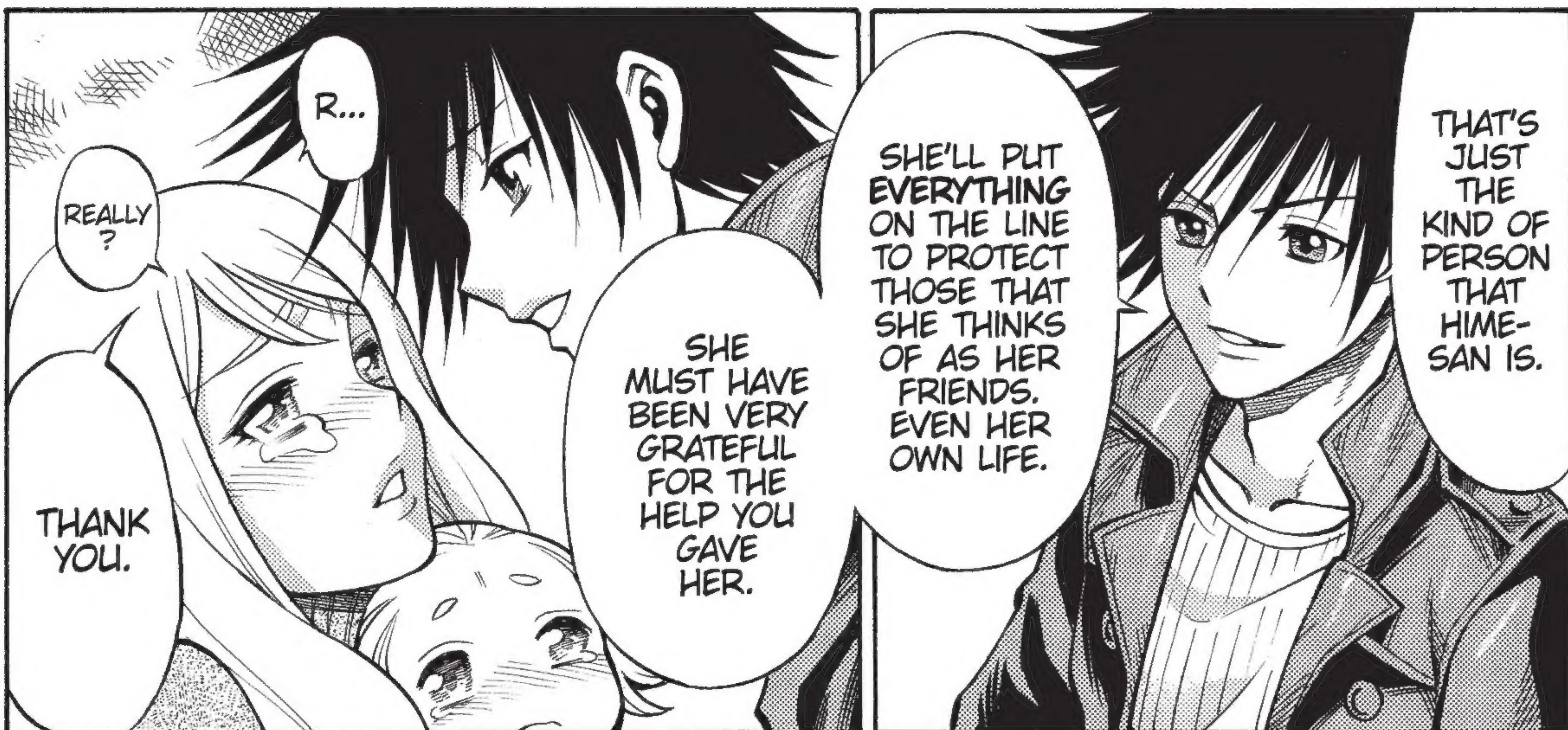
I'M SO
SORRY!

I'M
SORRY!

IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT!
MY
FAULT
THAT
THE BAD
GUYS
CAUGHT
HER!!



YEAH...
THAT'S
DEFINITELY
THE REAL
HIME-SAN.



REALLY
?

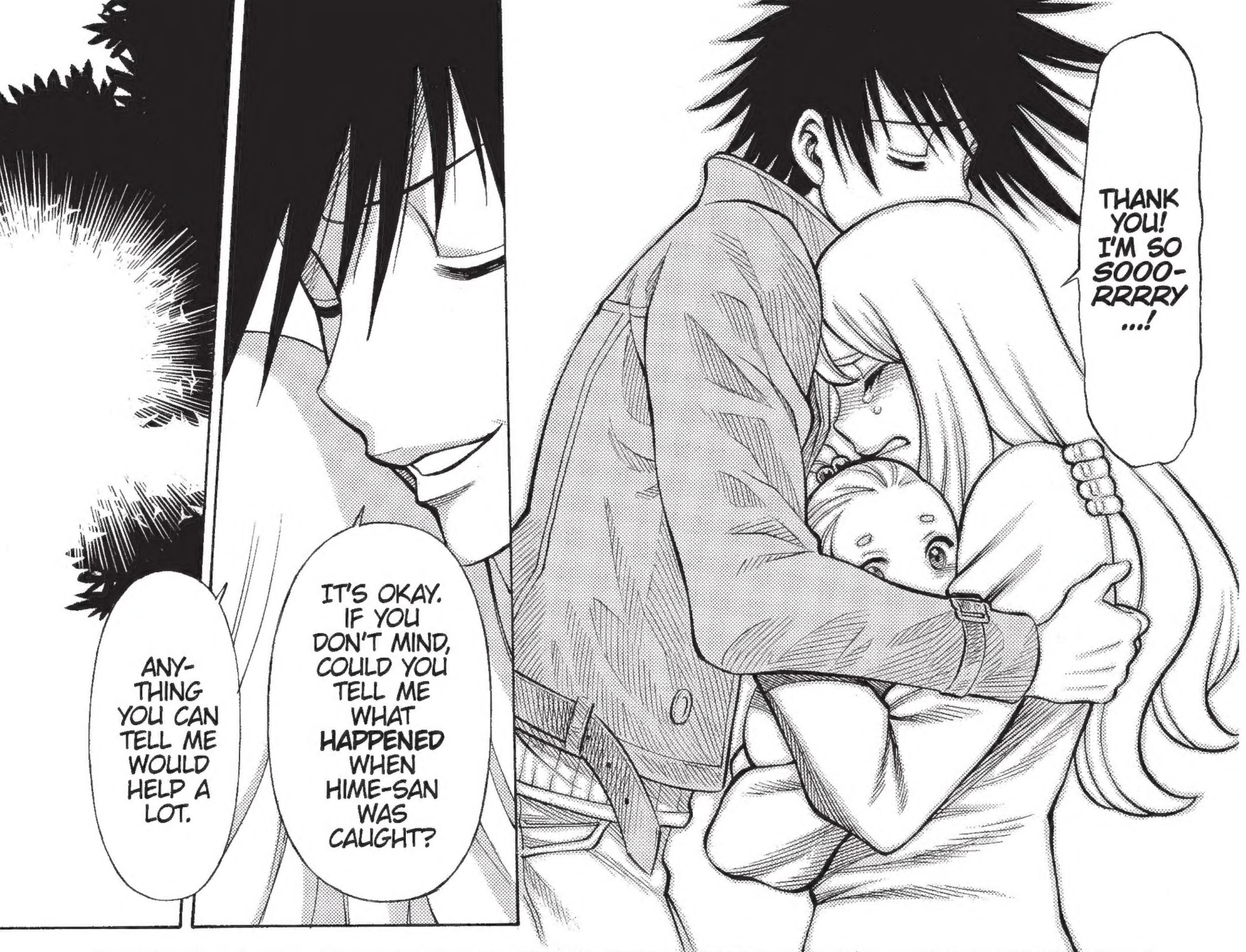
THANK
YOU.

R...

SHE
MUST HAVE
BEEN VERY
GRATEFUL
FOR THE
HELP YOU
GAVE
HER.

SHE'LL PUT
EVERYTHING
ON THE LINE
TO PROTECT
THOSE THAT
SHE THINKS
OF AS HER
FRIENDS.
EVEN HER
OWN LIFE.

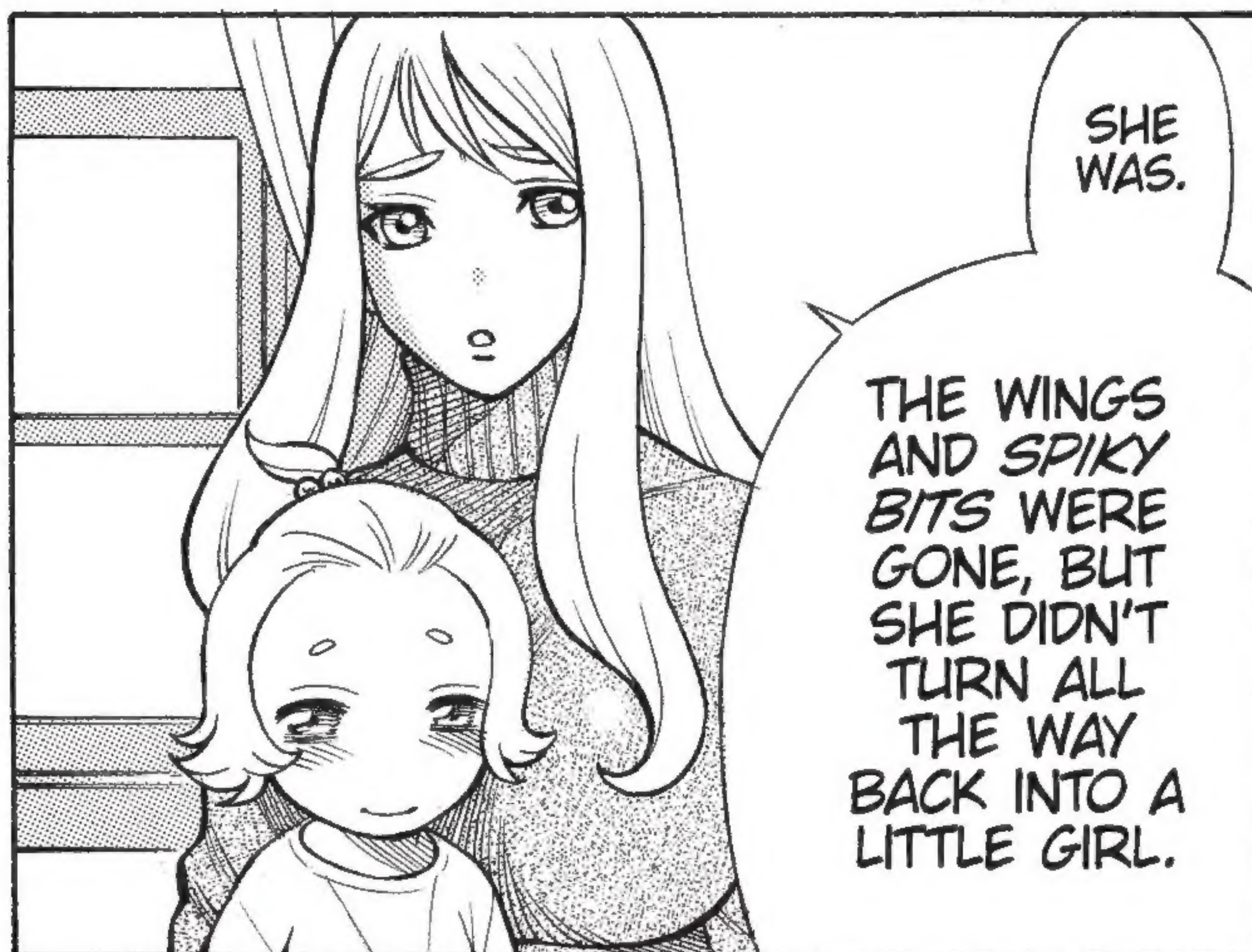
THAT'S
JUST
THE
KIND OF
PERSON
THAT
HIME-
SAN IS.



ANY-
THING
YOU CAN
TELL ME
WOULD
HELP A
LOT.

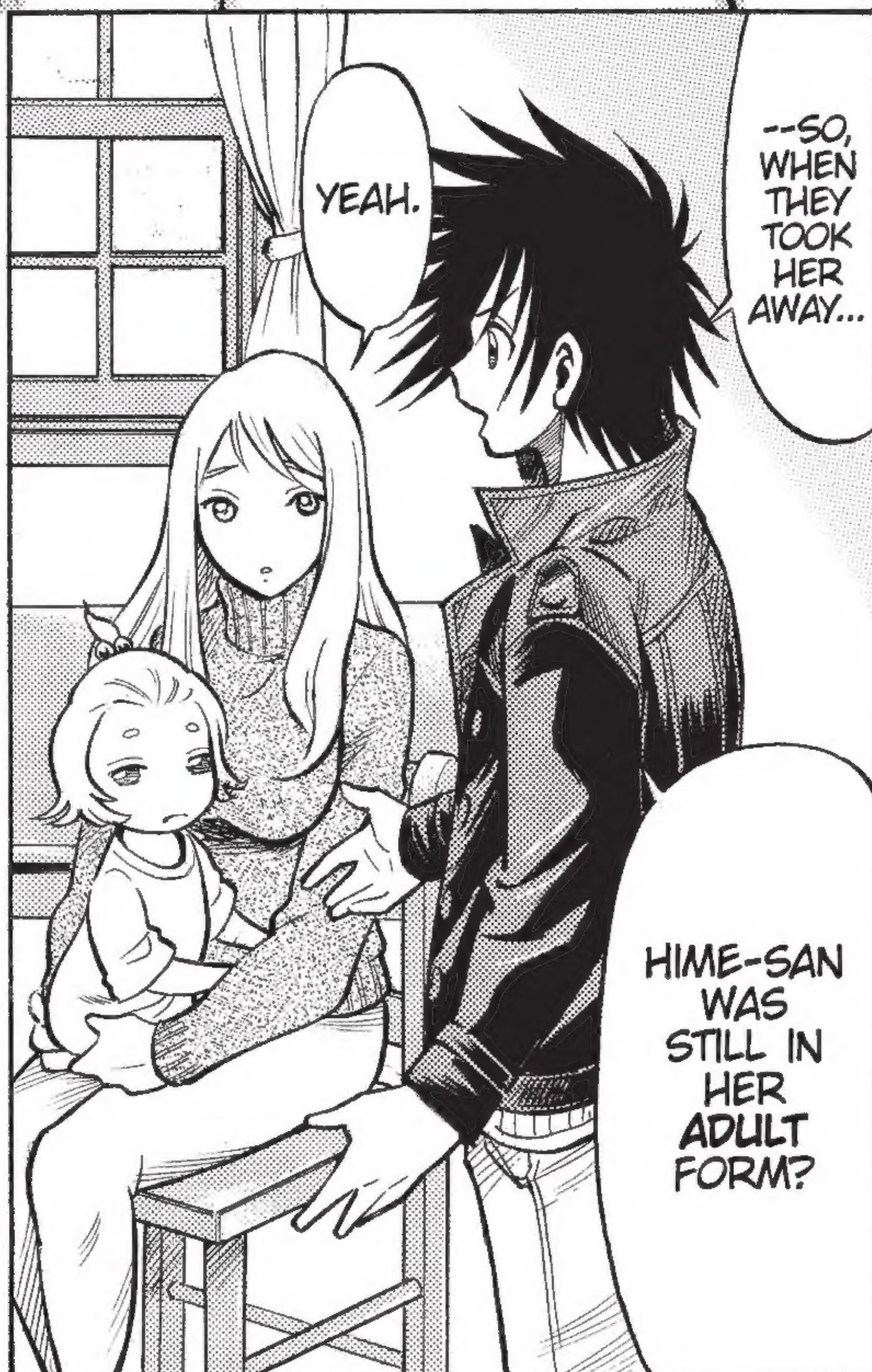
IT'S OKAY.
IF YOU
DON'T MIND,
COULD YOU
TELL ME
WHAT
HAPPENED
WHEN
HIME-SAN
WAS
CAUGHT?

THANK
YOU!
I'M SO
SOOO-
RRRRY
...!



SHE
WAS.

THE WINGS
AND SPIKY
BITS WERE
GONE, BUT
SHE DIDN'T
TURN ALL
THE WAY
BACK INTO A
LITTLE GIRL.



YEAH.

--SO,
WHEN
THEY
TOOK
HER
AWAY...

HIME-SAN
WAS
STILL IN
HER
ADULT
FORM?

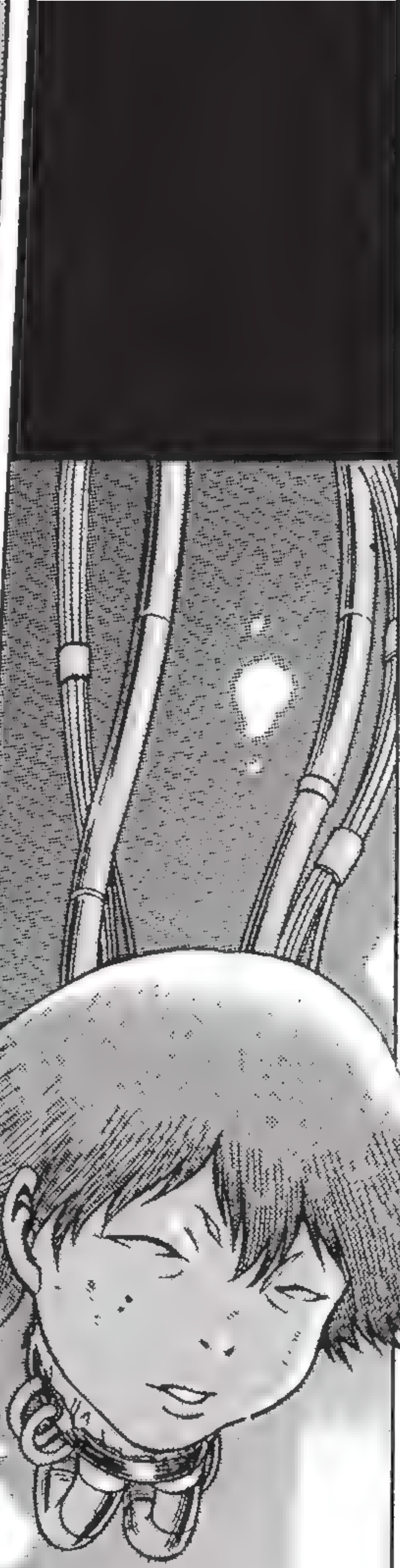


SOME-
THING
ODD
ABOUT
THAT,
KID?



IT
COULD
FREEZE
HER
IN HER
ADULT
TRUE
FORM.

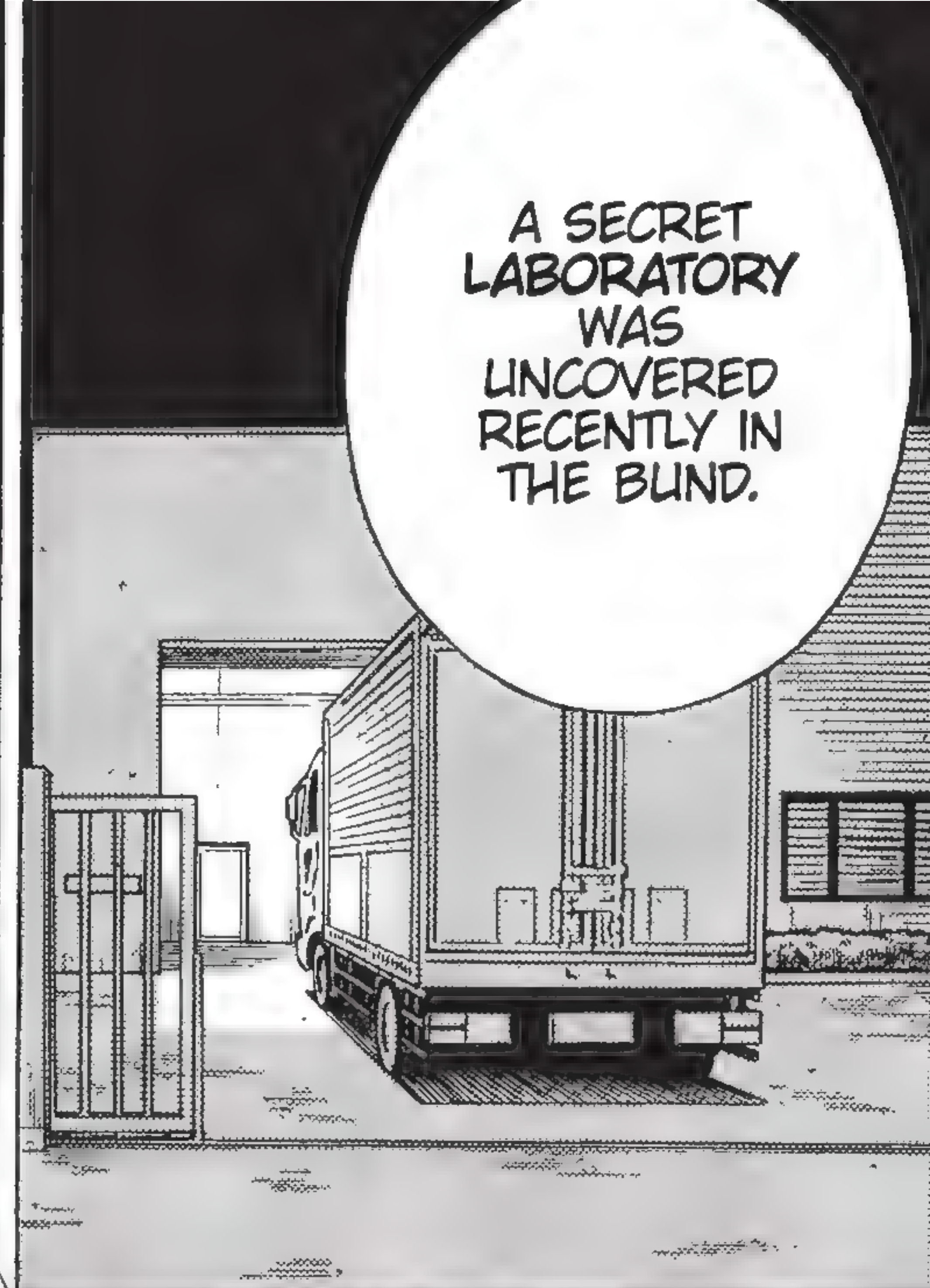
IF THAT
DRUG WAS
GIVEN TO
HIME-SAN...



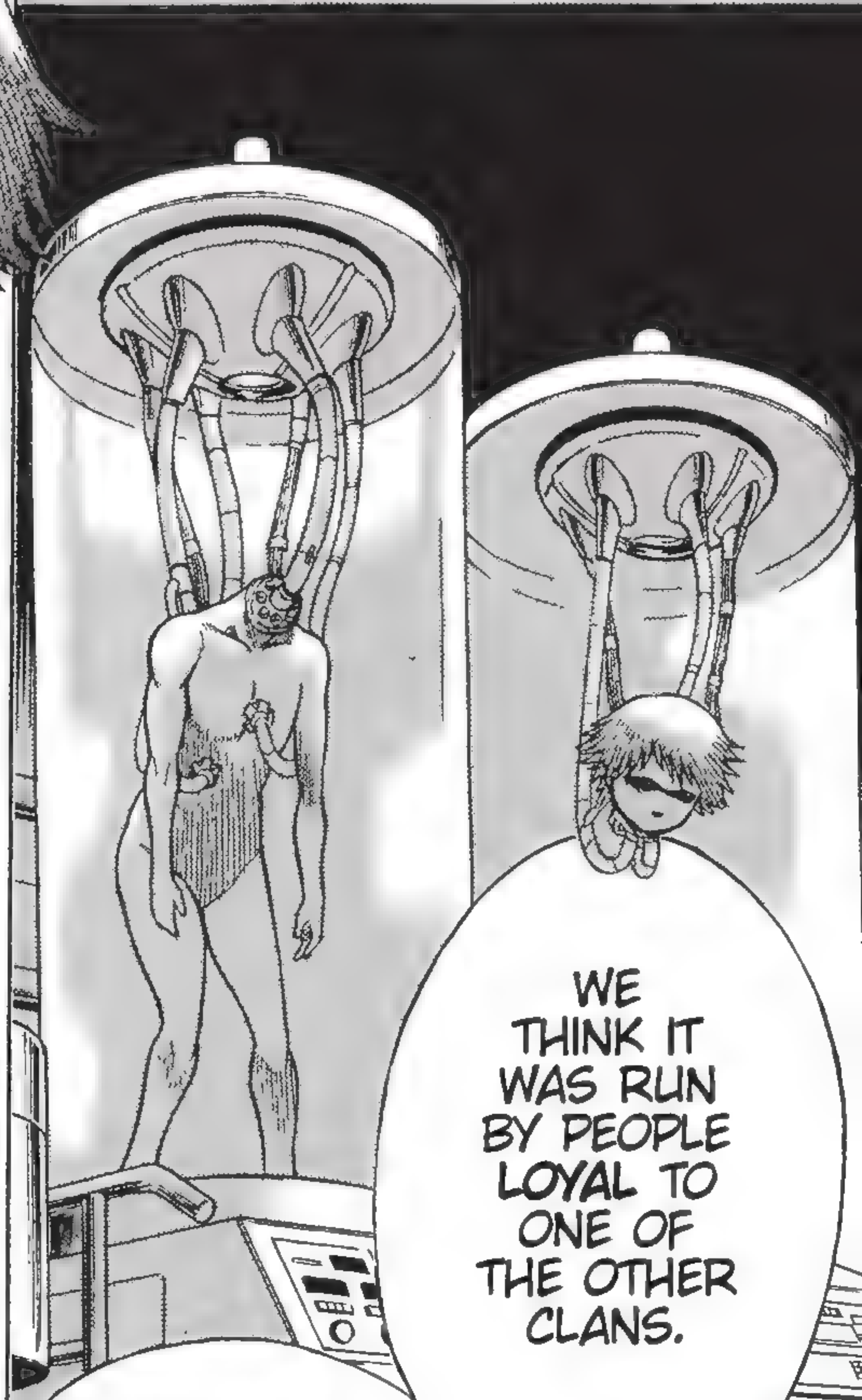
D
A
M
N
!

THIS
JUST
KEEPS
GETTING
WORSE
AND
WORSE!

THE BUND'S
SCIENTISTS
BELIEVE THAT
THEY WERE
CREATING
A DRUG
INTENDED TO
MANIPULATE
A VAMPIRE'S
TRUE FORM.

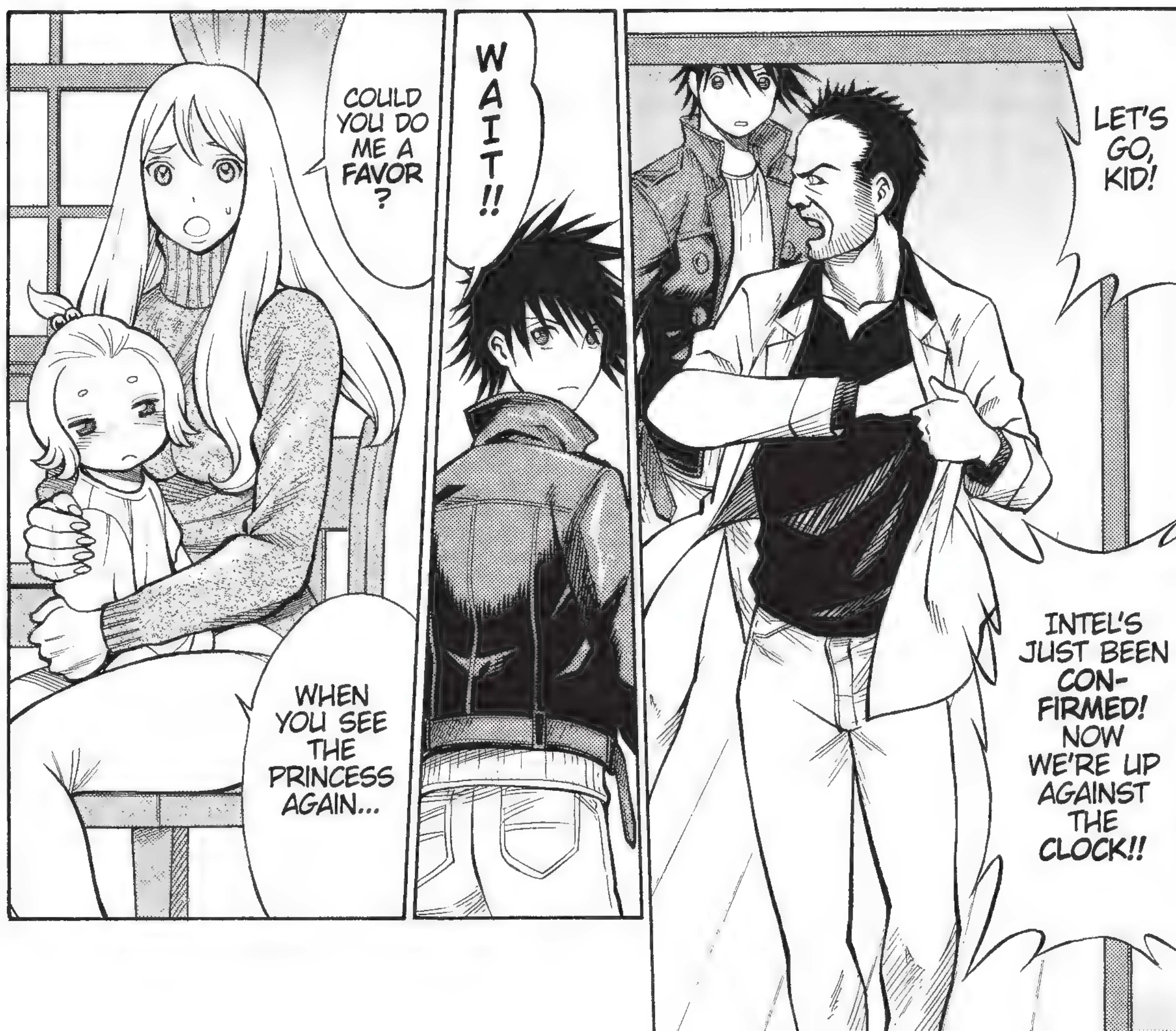


A SECRET
LABORATORY
WAS
UNCOVERED
RECENTLY IN
THE BUND.



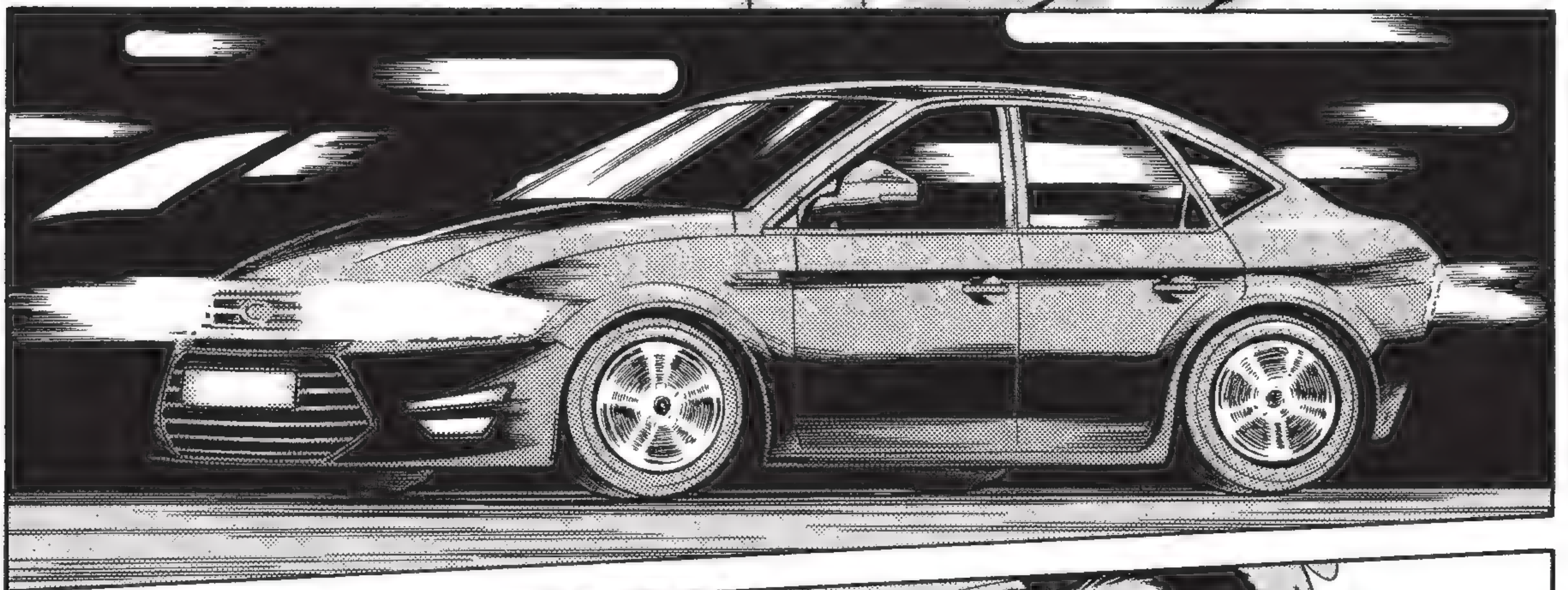
WE
THINK IT
WAS RUN
BY PEOPLE
LOYAL TO
ONE OF
THE OTHER
CLANS.

INSIDE,
THERE WAS A
LOT OF MEDICAL
EQUIPMENT AND THE
BODY OF ONE OF
IVANOVIC'S "NEW"
VAMPIRE HYBRIDS.
THE DATA RECOVERED
FROM THE PLACE
INDICATES THAT THEY
WERE EXPERIMENTING
WITH THE HYBRID'S
GENETIC
MATERIAL.

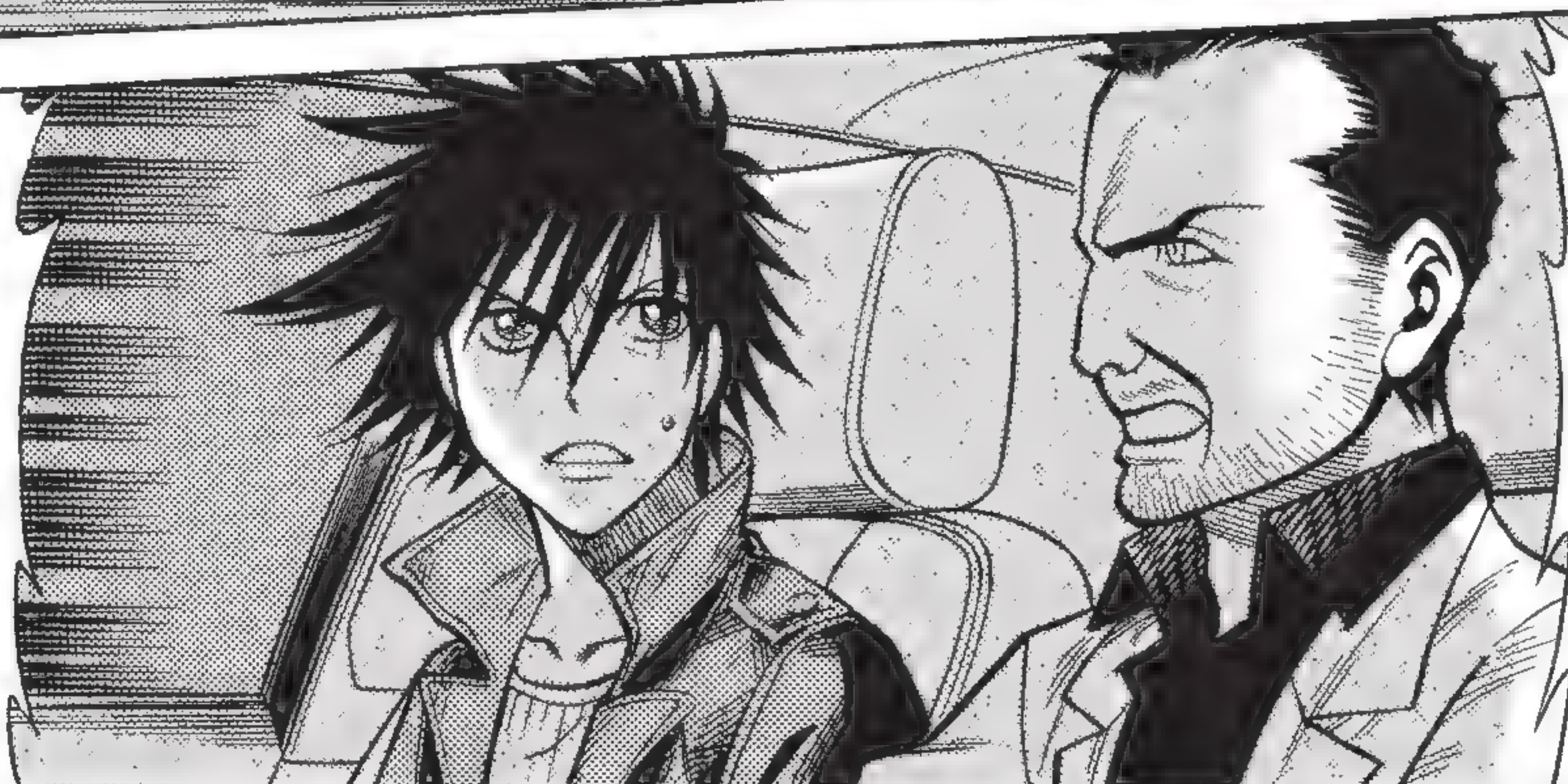




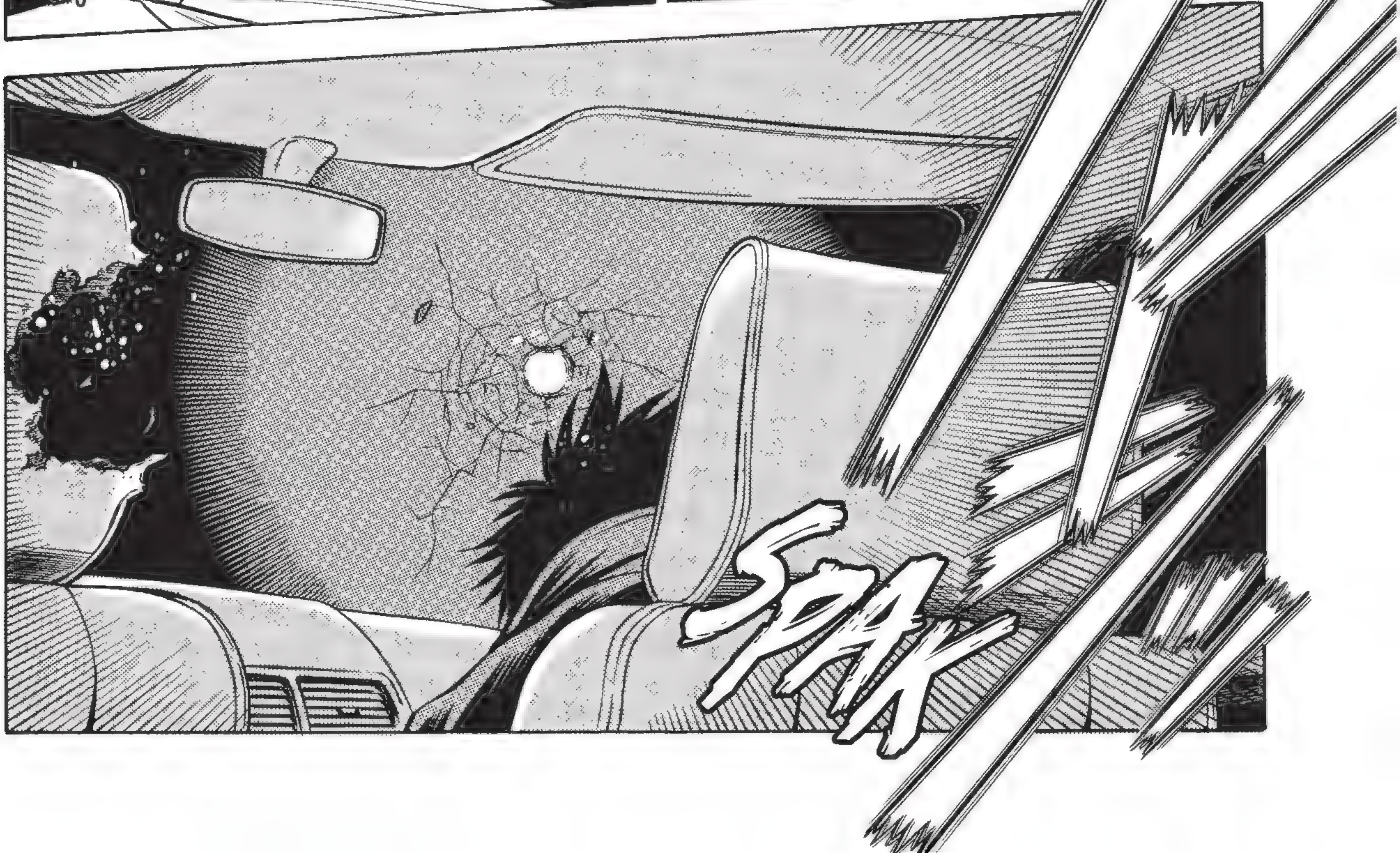
TELL
HER TO
COME
AND
VISIT US
SOMETIME,
OKAY?

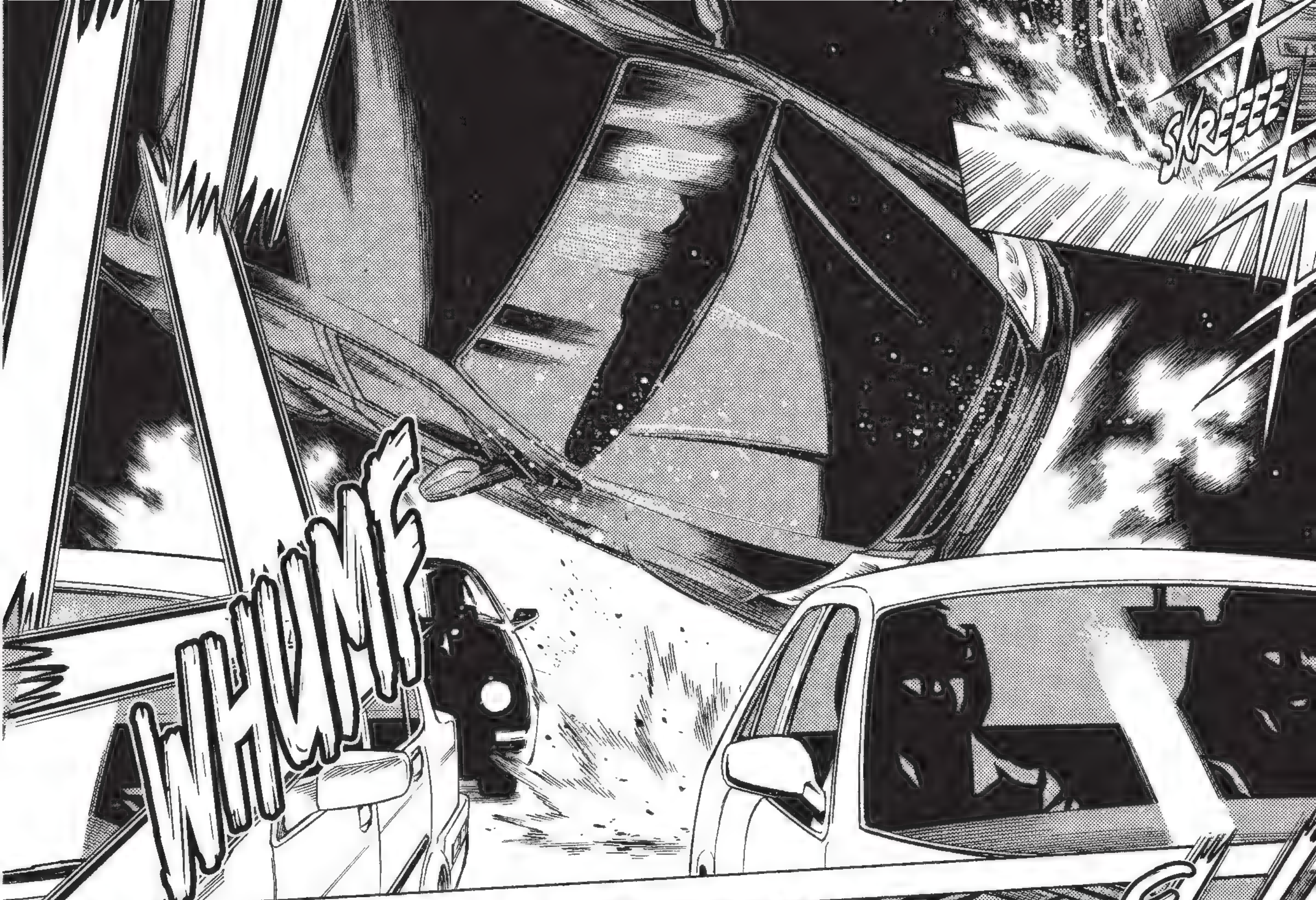


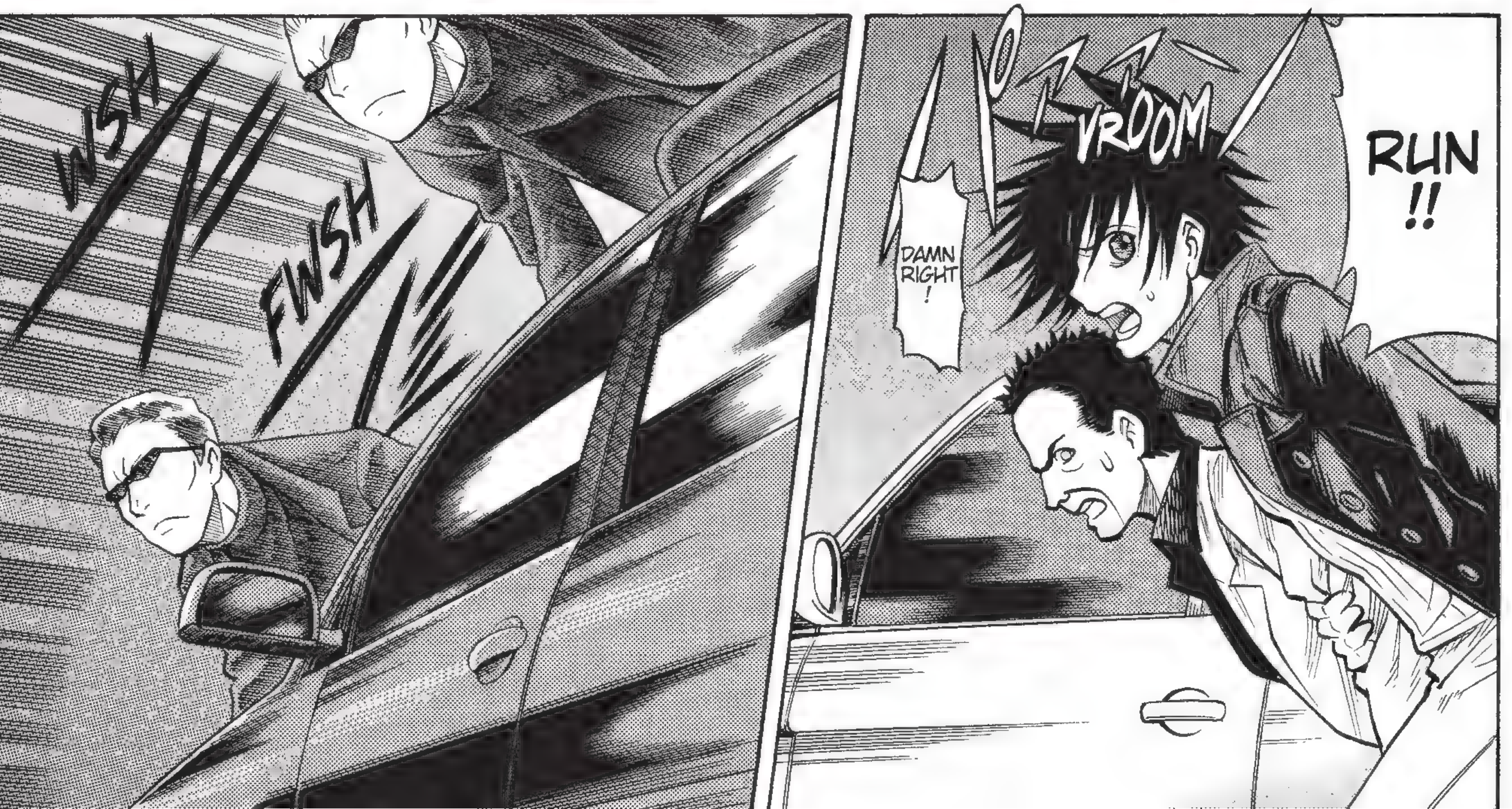
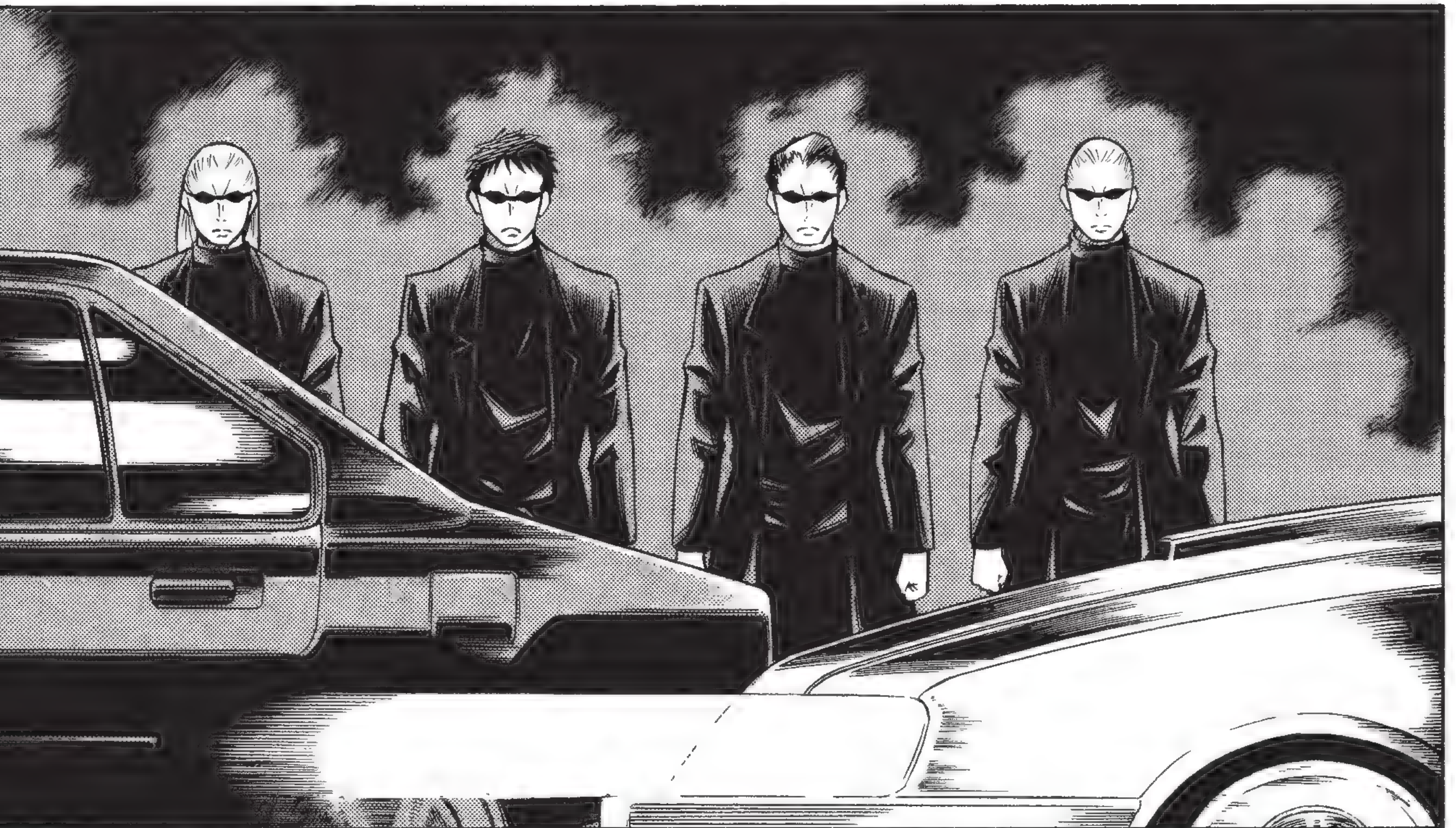
THEY'LL
TAKE YOU
STRAIGHT
TO LA
GUARDIA.
A CIA
PLANE WILL
MEET YOU
THERE!

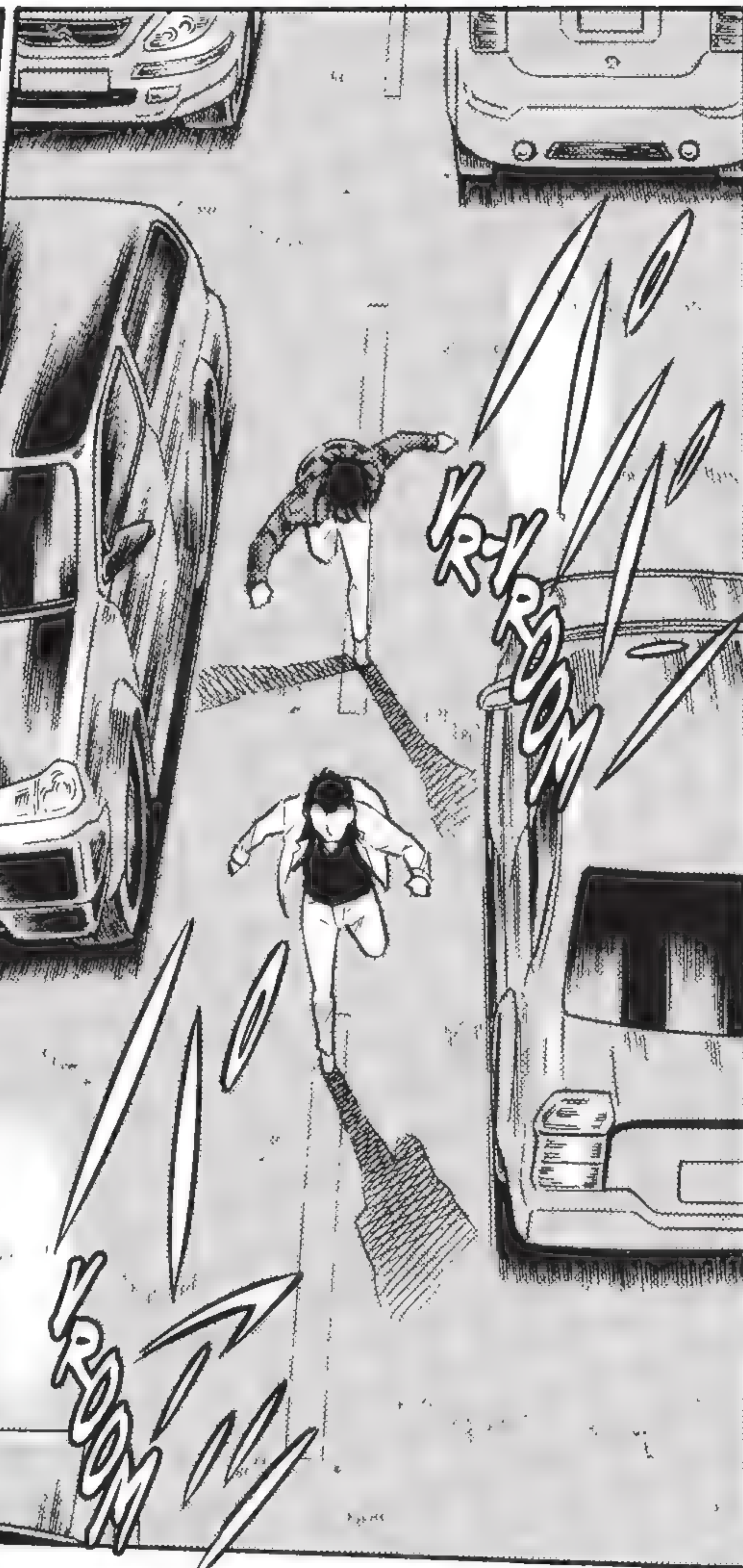


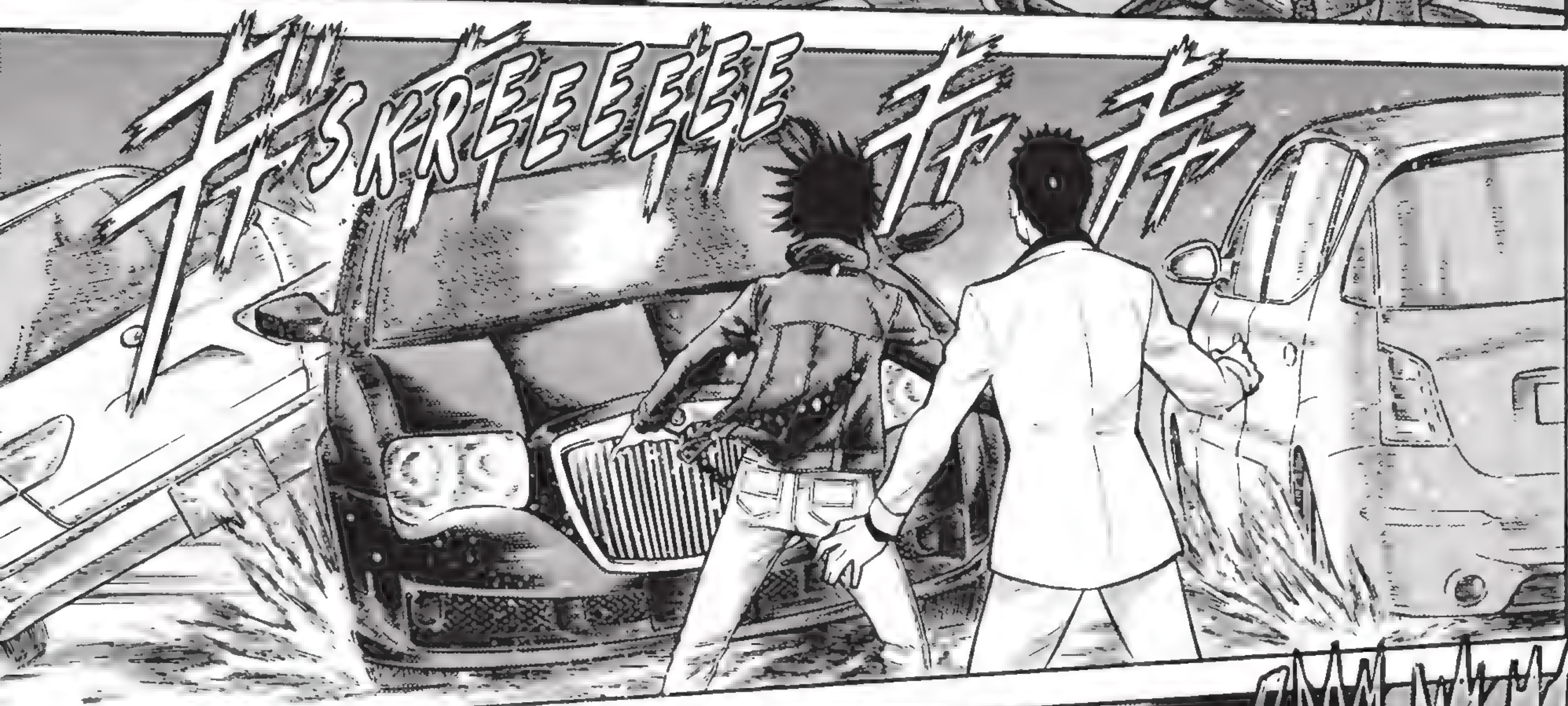
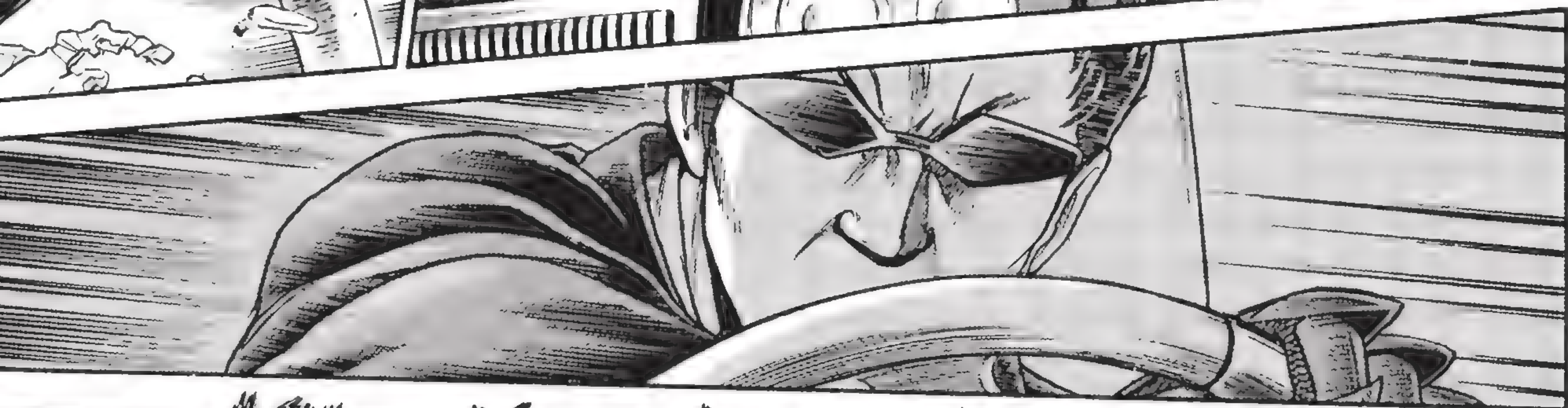
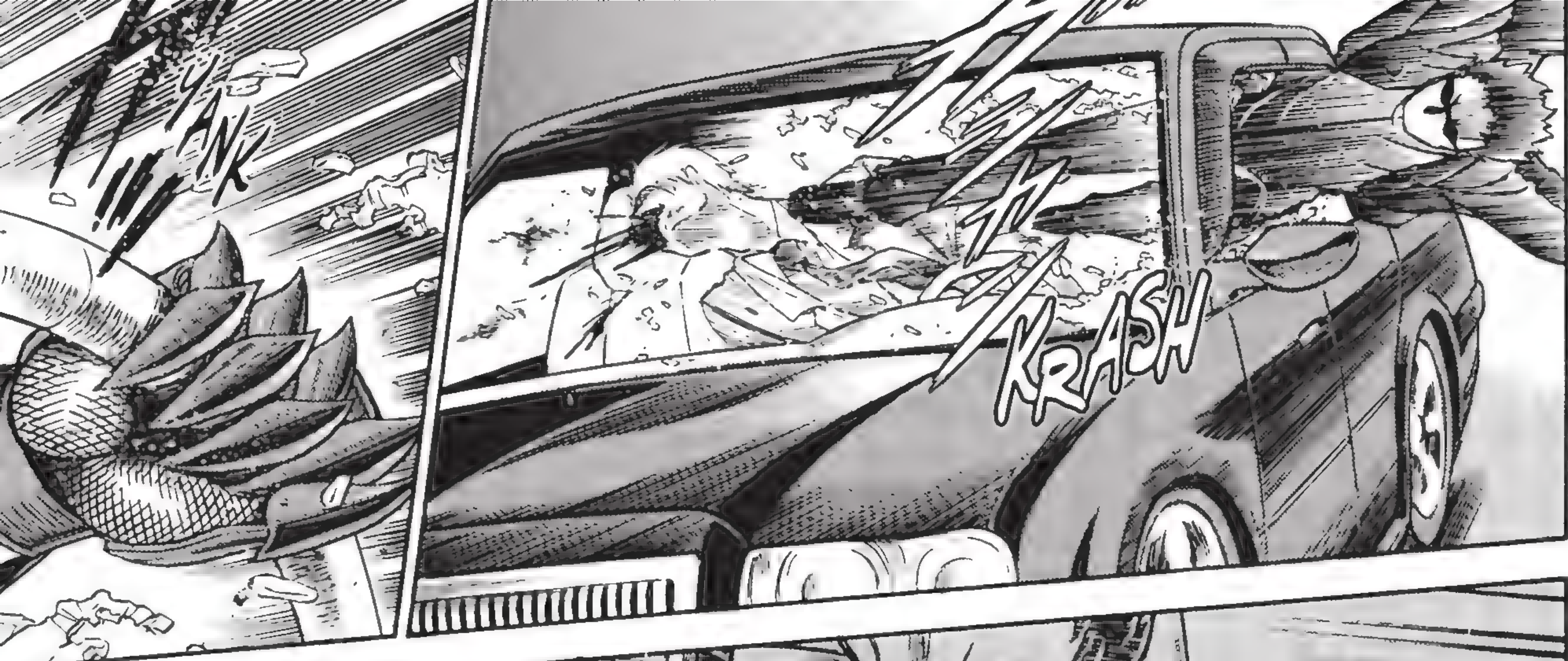
I'VE
CALLED
IN A
CHOPPER
TO PICK
YOU UP
FROM THE
HOSPITAL'S
ROOFTOP.



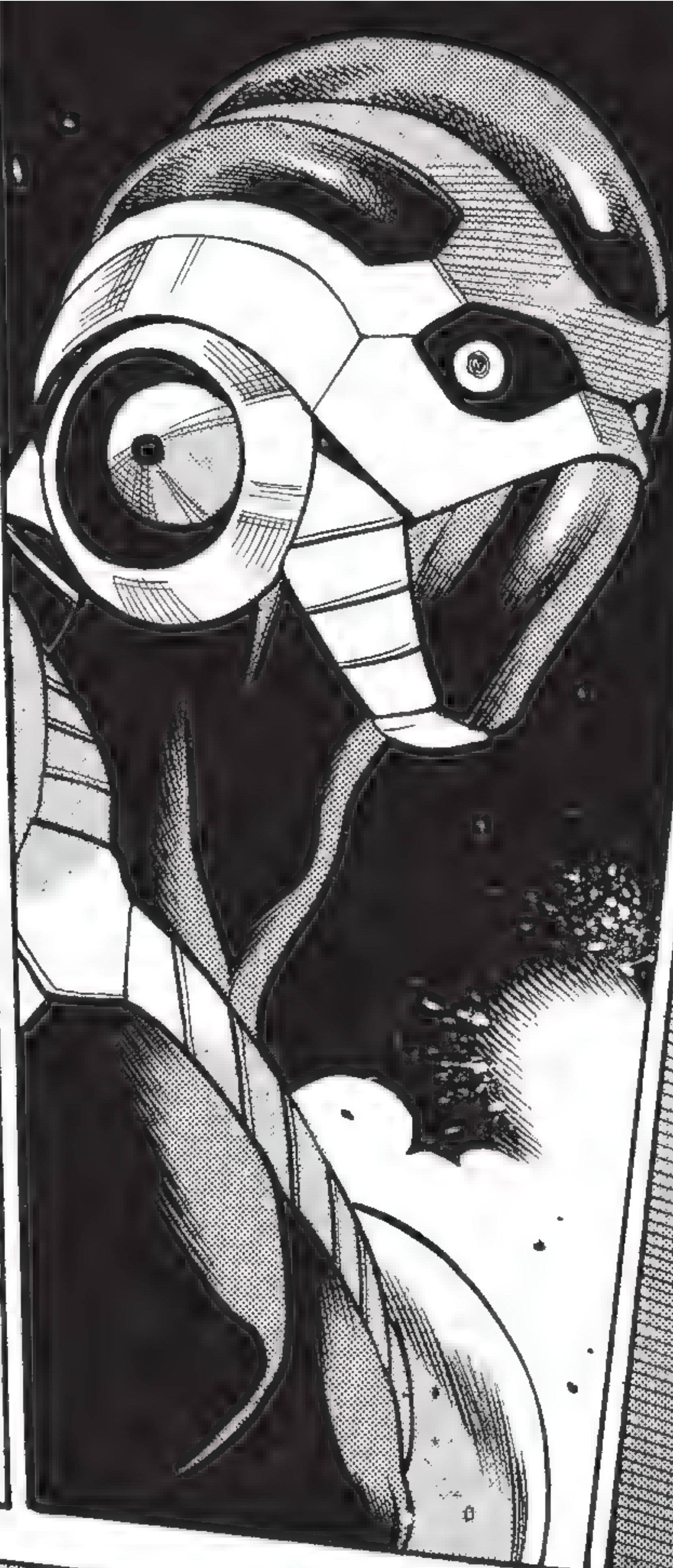




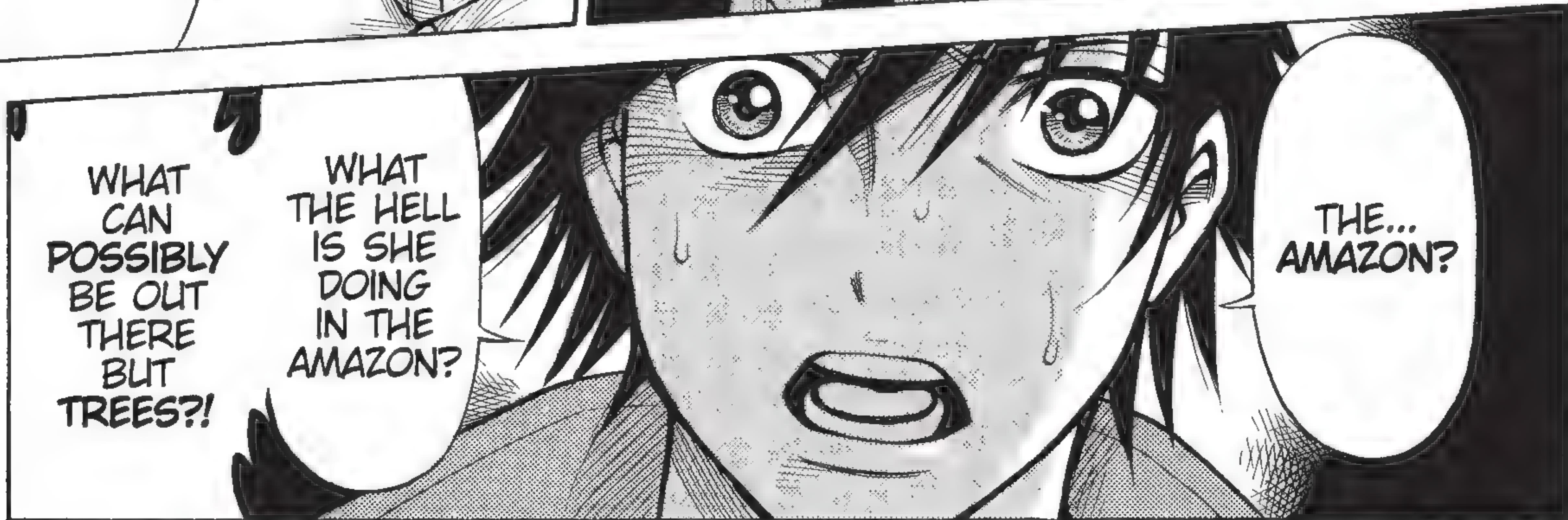




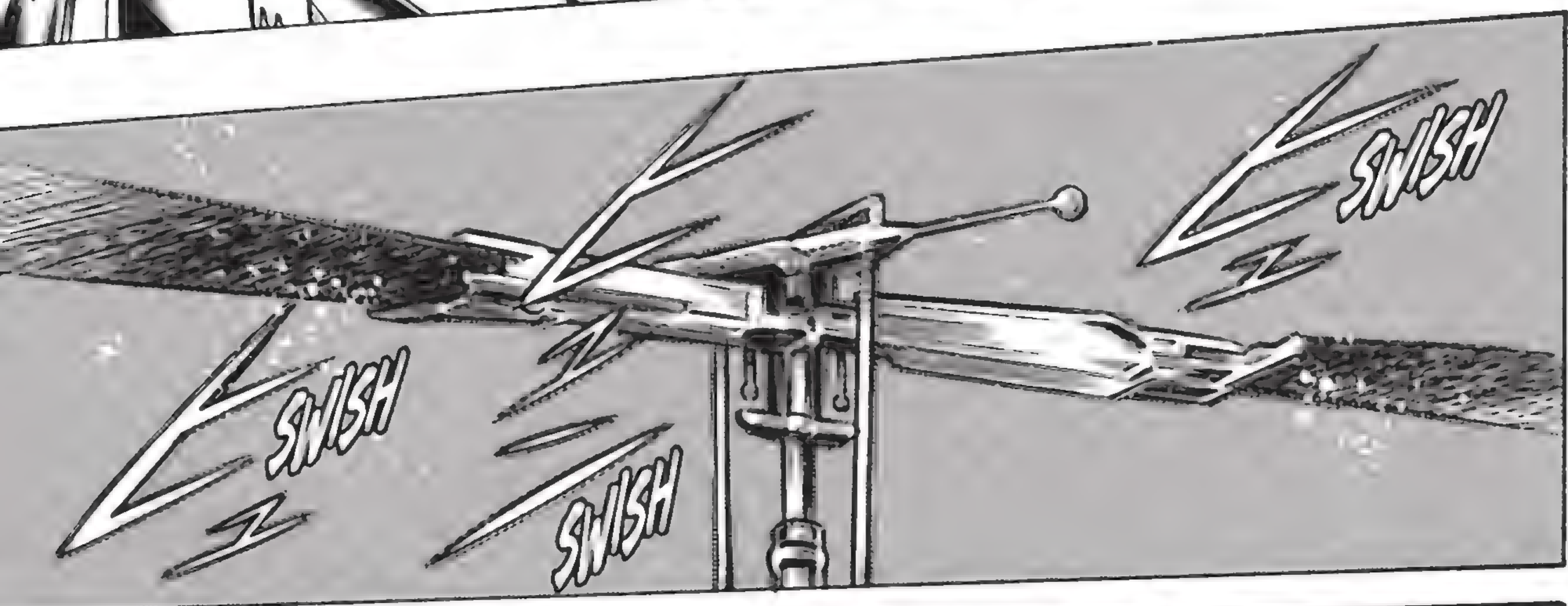














WHAT THE --?!

NO...

NO WAY...

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME...



BOOOOO

WHUP WHUP WHUP

HEH HEH.

THERE HE GOES ...

SEE THAT, HAMA? NOW WE'RE FINALLY EVEN.

FASSCH

AH...

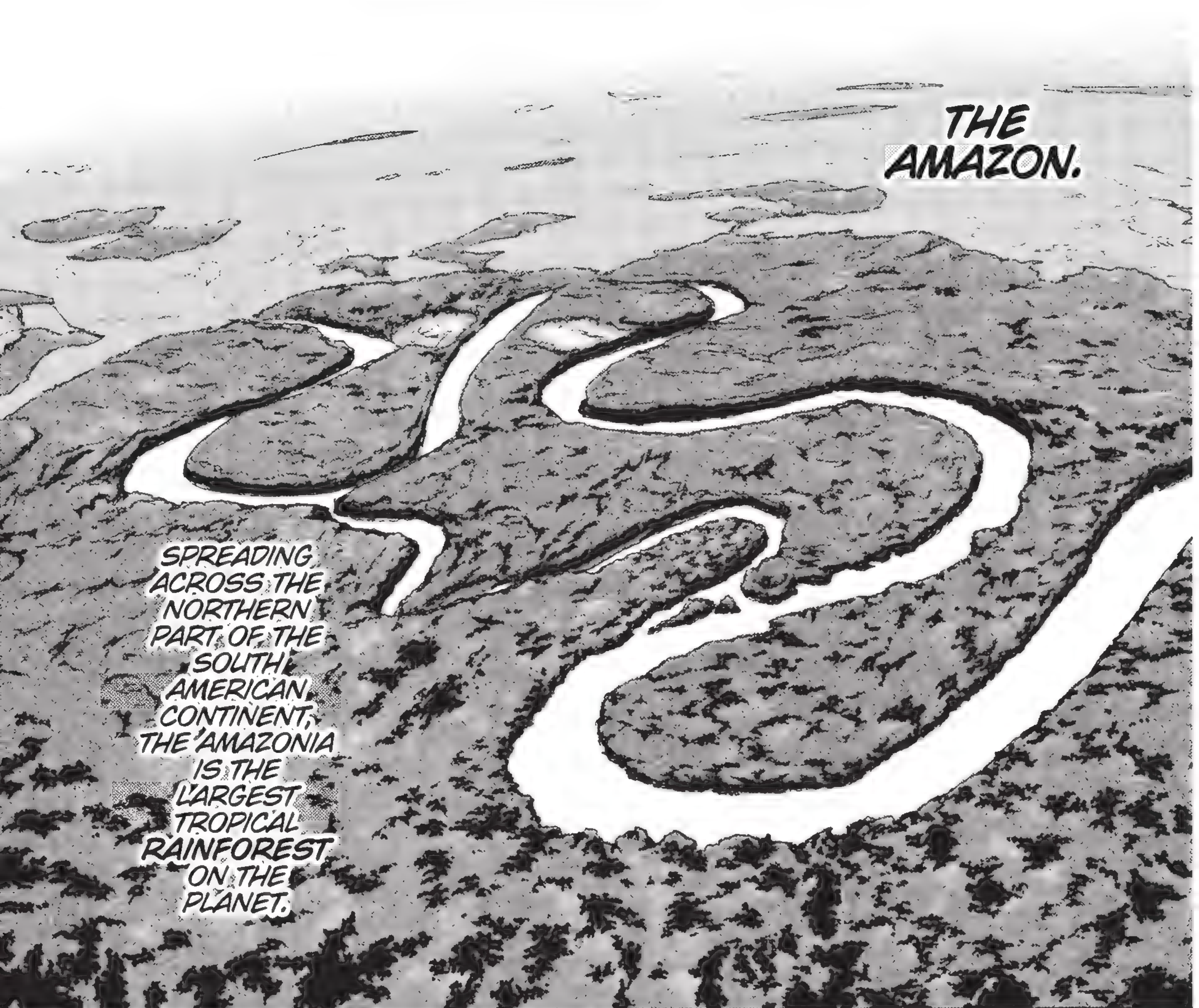
HFF.

HFF.

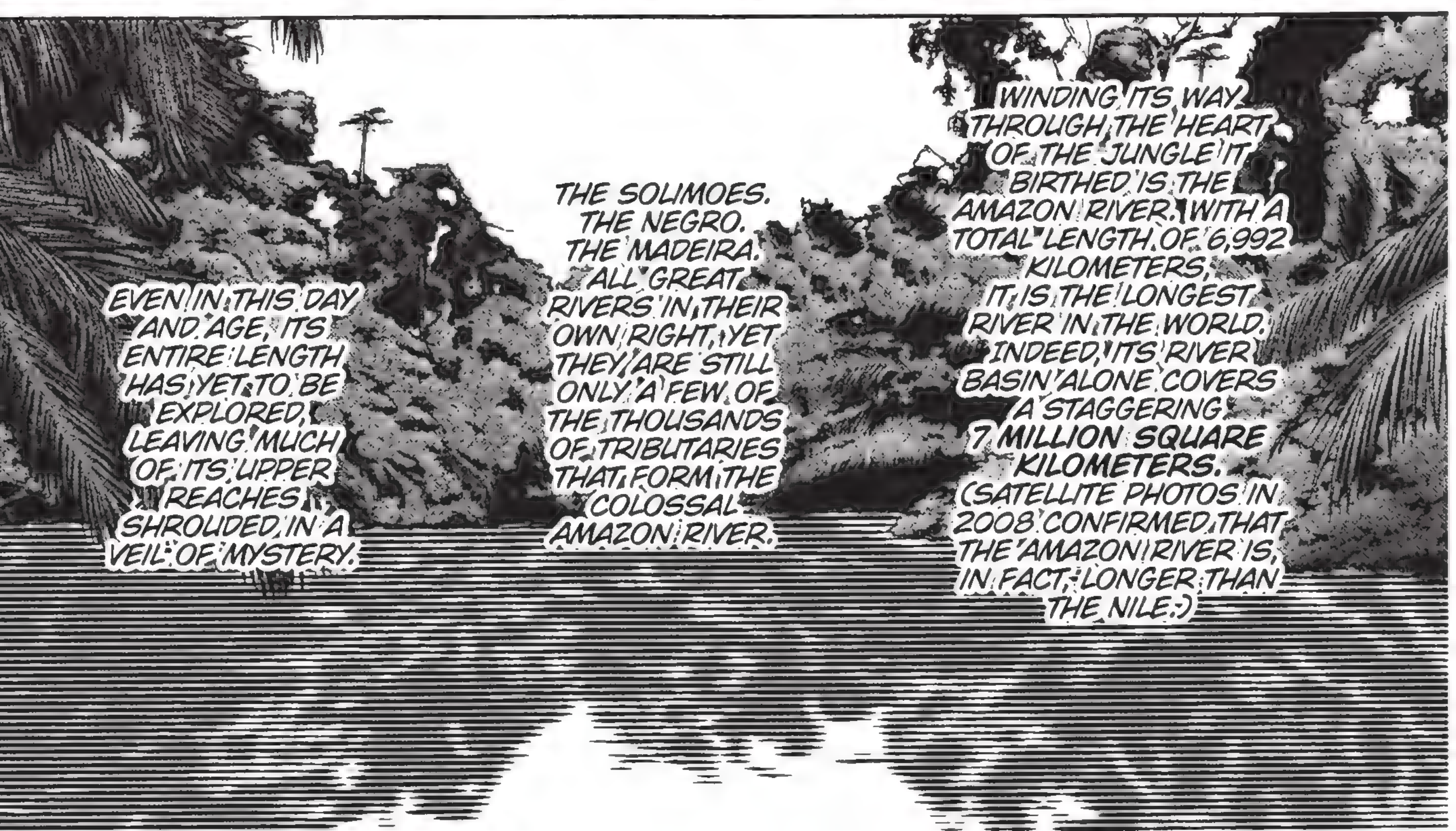


**YOU'VE
GOT
TO BE
FREAKIN'
KIDDING
ME!!**

THE AMAZON.



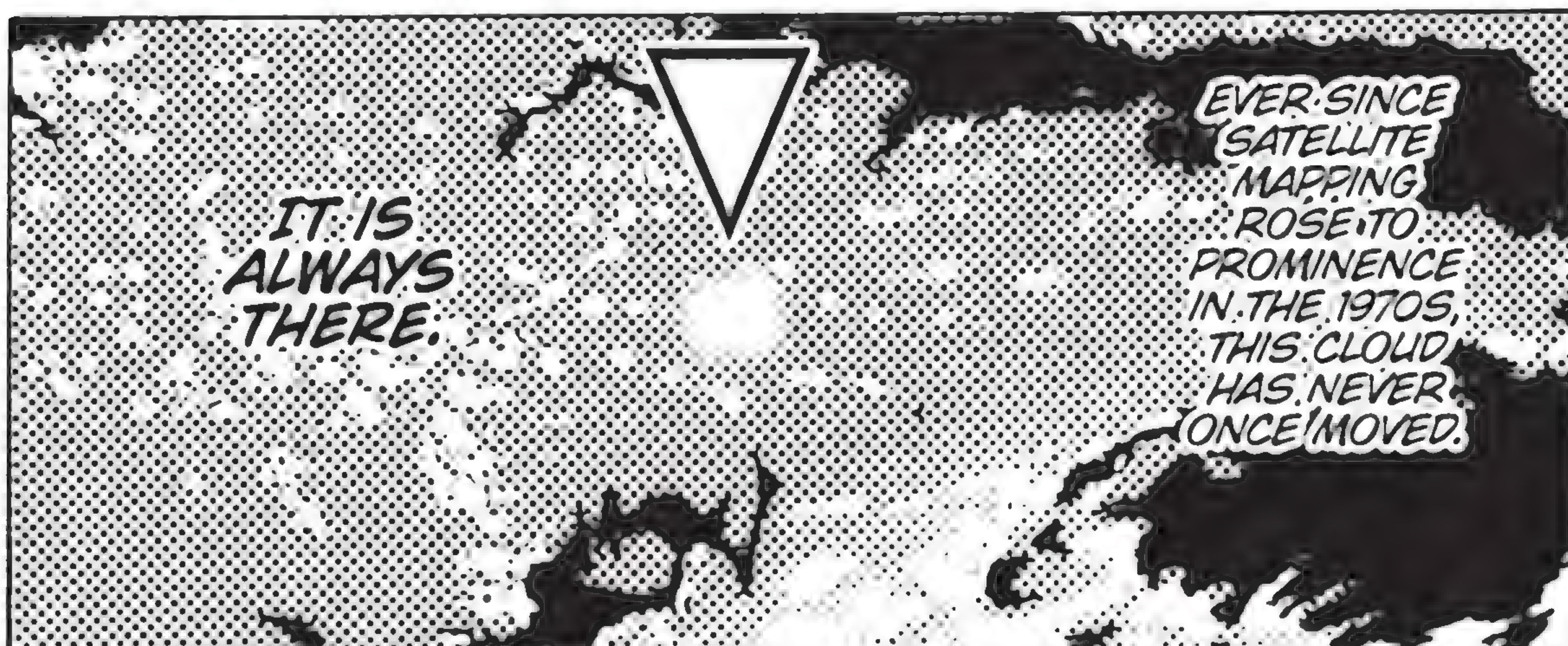
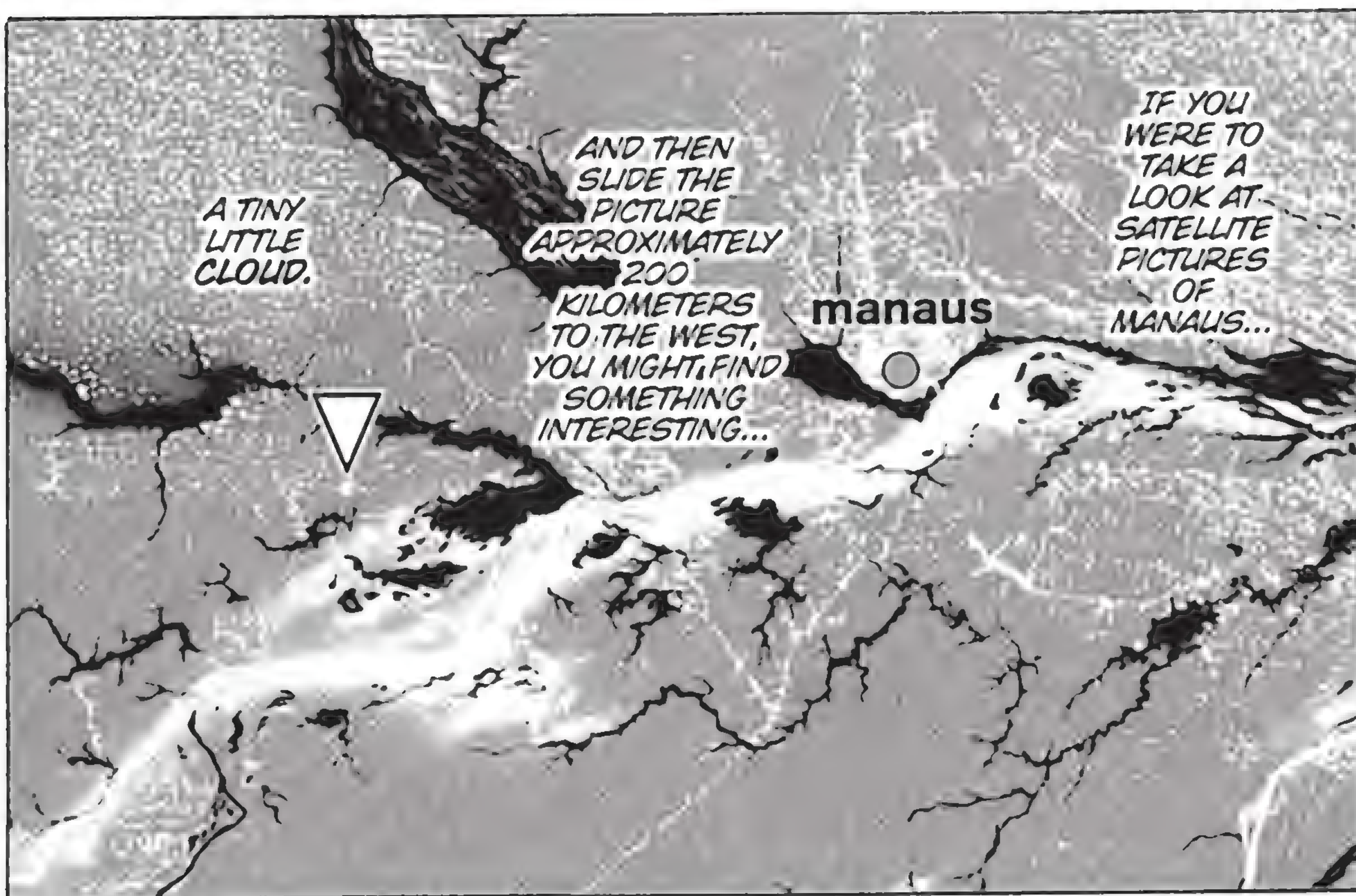
SPREADING
ACROSS THE
NORTHERN
PART OF THE
SOUTH
AMERICAN
CONTINENT,
THE AMAZONIA
IS THE
LARGEST
TROPICAL
RAINFOREST
ON THE
PLANET.

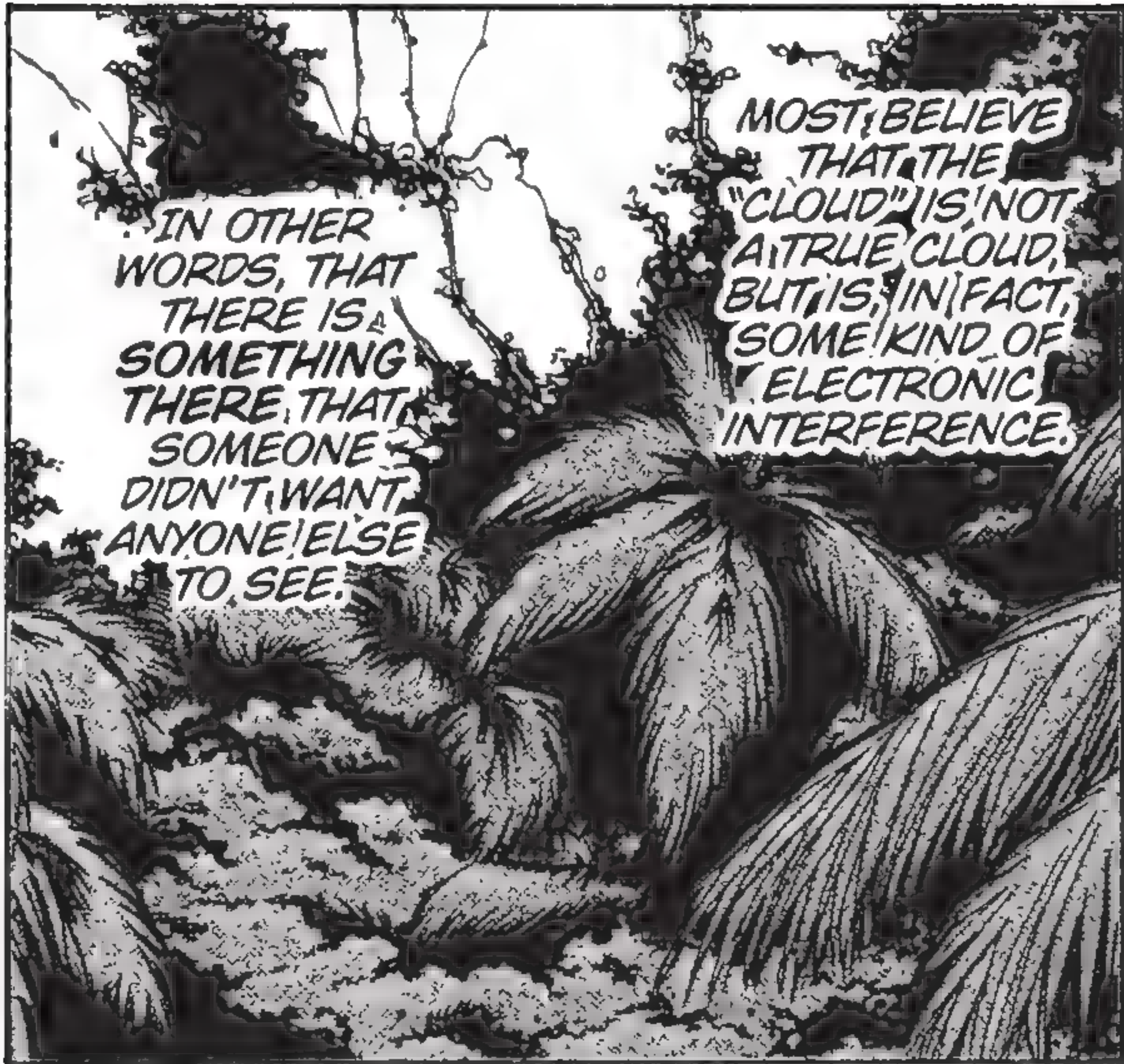


EVEN IN THIS DAY
AND AGE, ITS
ENTIRE LENGTH
HAS YET TO BE
EXPLORED,
LEAVING MUCH
OF ITS UPPER
REACHES
SHROUDED IN A
VEIL OF MYSTERY.

THE SOLIMÕES.
THE NEGRO.
THE MADEIRA.
ALL GREAT
RIVERS IN THEIR
OWN RIGHT, YET
THEY ARE STILL
ONLY A FEW OF
THE THOUSANDS
OF TRIBUTARIES
THAT FORM THE
COLOSSAL
AMAZON RIVER.

WINDING ITS WAY
THROUGH THE HEART
OF THE JUNGLE IT
BIRTHED IS THE
AMAZON RIVER, WITH A
TOTAL LENGTH OF 6,992
KILOMETERS.
IT IS THE LONGEST
RIVER IN THE WORLD.
INDEED, ITS RIVER
BASIN ALONE COVERS
A STAGGERING
7 MILLION SQUARE
KILOMETERS.
(SATELLITE PHOTOS IN
2008 CONFIRMED THAT
THE AMAZON RIVER IS,
IN FACT, LONGER THAN
THE NILE.)





IN OTHER
WORDS, THAT
THERE IS A
SOMETHING
THERE THAT
SOMEONE
DIDN'T WANT
ANYONE ELSE
TO SEE.

MOST BELIEVE
THAT THE
"CLOUD" IS NOT
A TRUE CLOUD,
BUT IS, IN FACT,
SOME KIND OF
ELECTRONIC
INTERFERENCE.



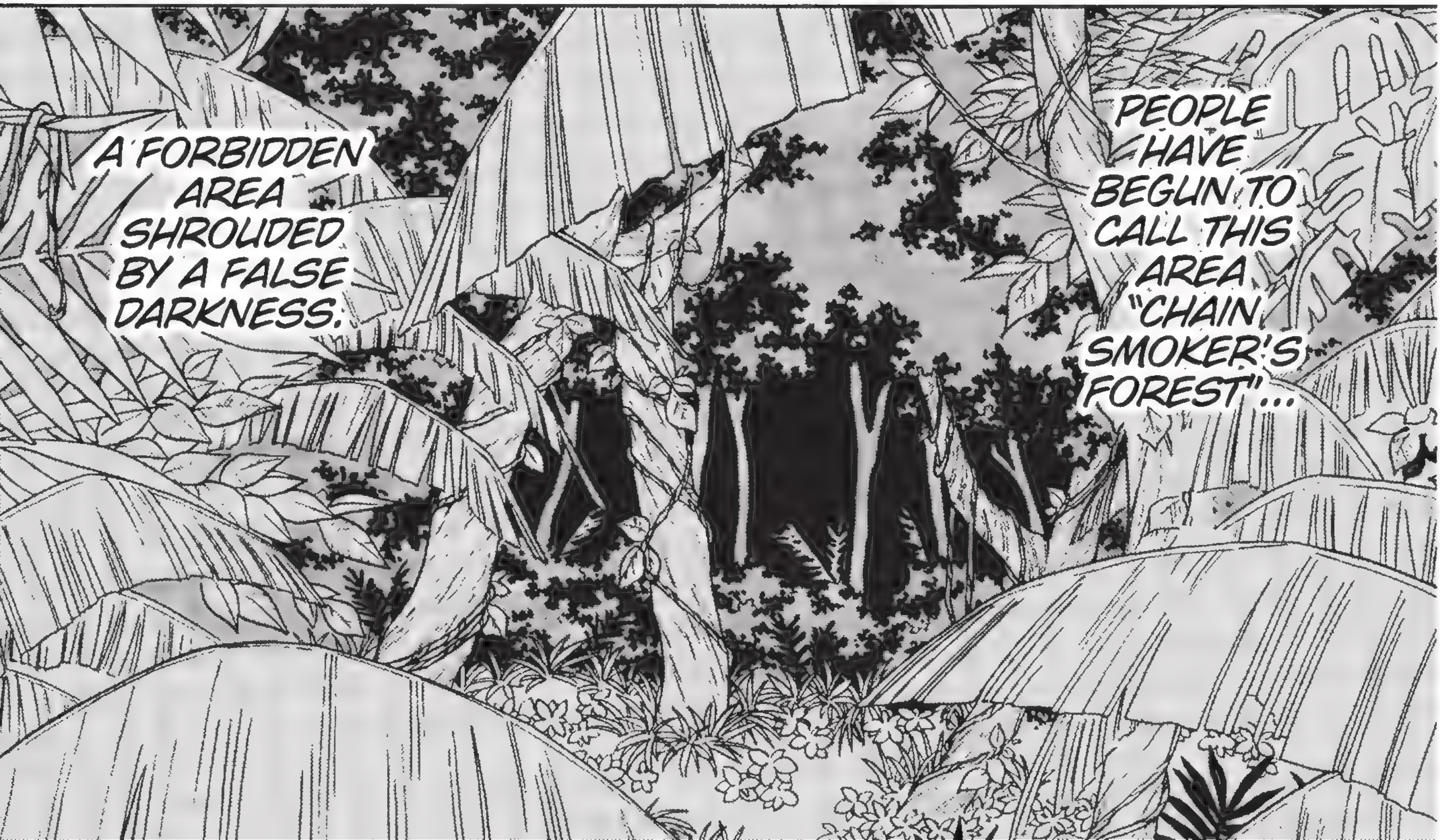
SEVERAL
THEORIES
HAVE BEEN
PROPOSED...

WHAT LIES
UNDER THIS
MYSTERIOUS
CLOUD HAS
BEEN THE
TOPIC OF
DISCUSSION
FOR MANY
ADVENTURERS.



NONE OF
THEM HAVE
EVER
RETURNED.

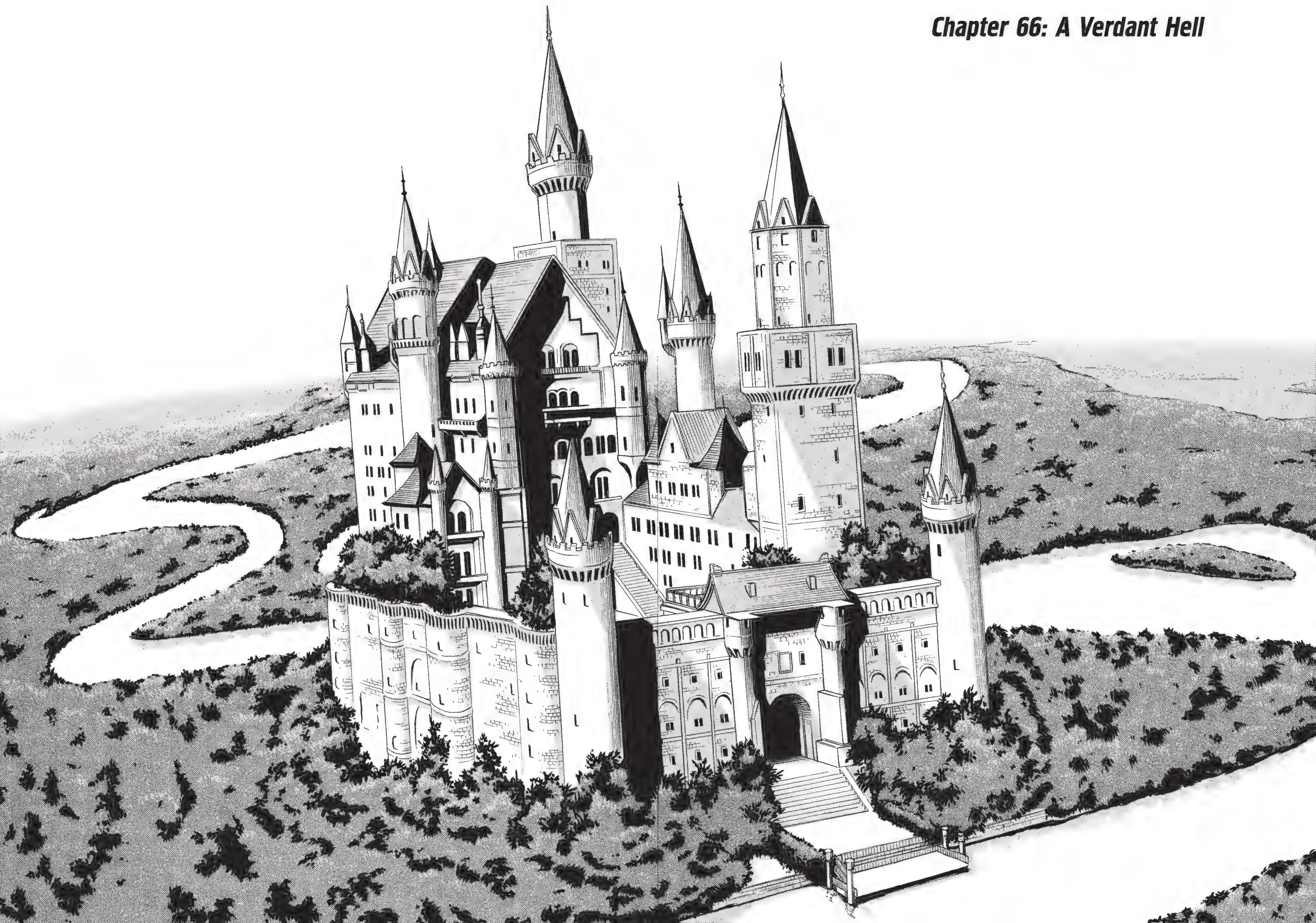
DOZENS OF
ADVENTURERS
HAVE BRAVED
THE PRIMITIVE
DEPTHS OF THE
AMAZON,
SEEKING TO
FIND THE TRUTH
BEHIND THIS
MYSTERY...



A FORBIDDEN
AREA
SHROUDED
BY A FALSE
DARKNESS.

PEOPLE
HAVE
BEGUN TO
CALL THIS
AREA
"CHAIN
SMOKER'S
FOREST"...

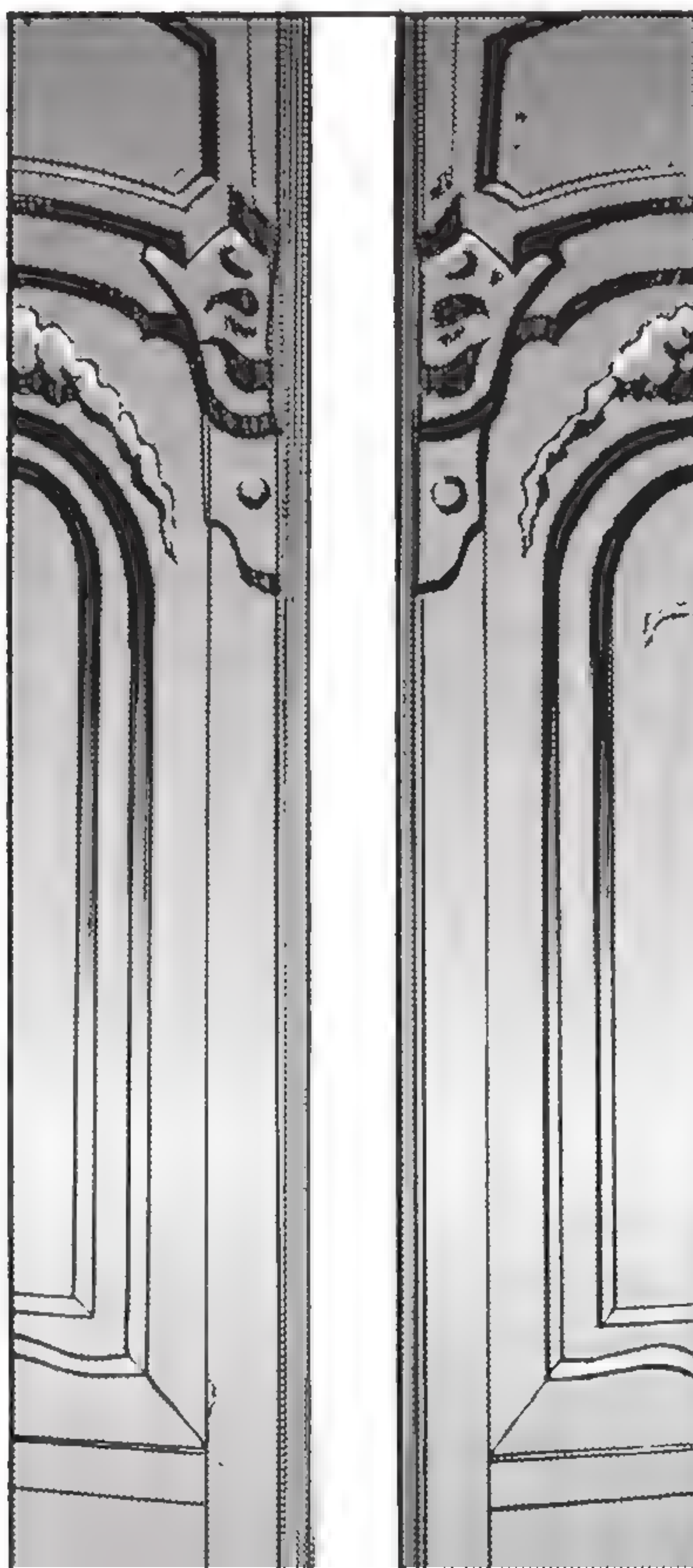
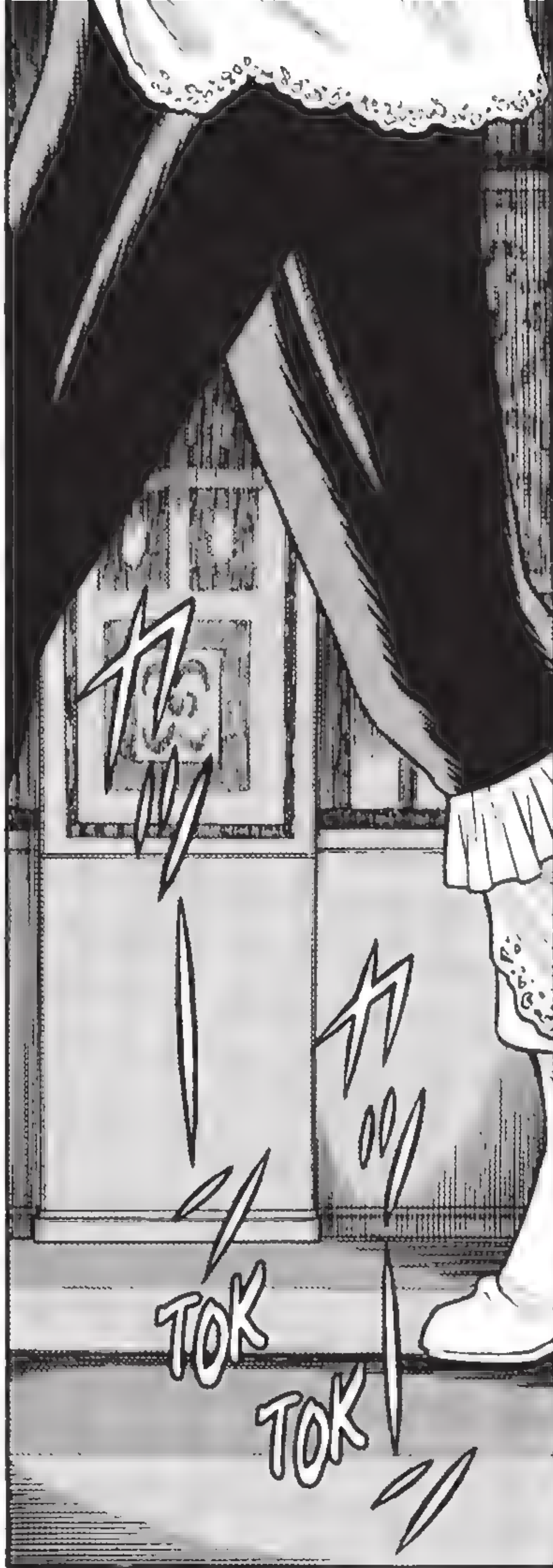
Chapter 66: A Verdant Hell

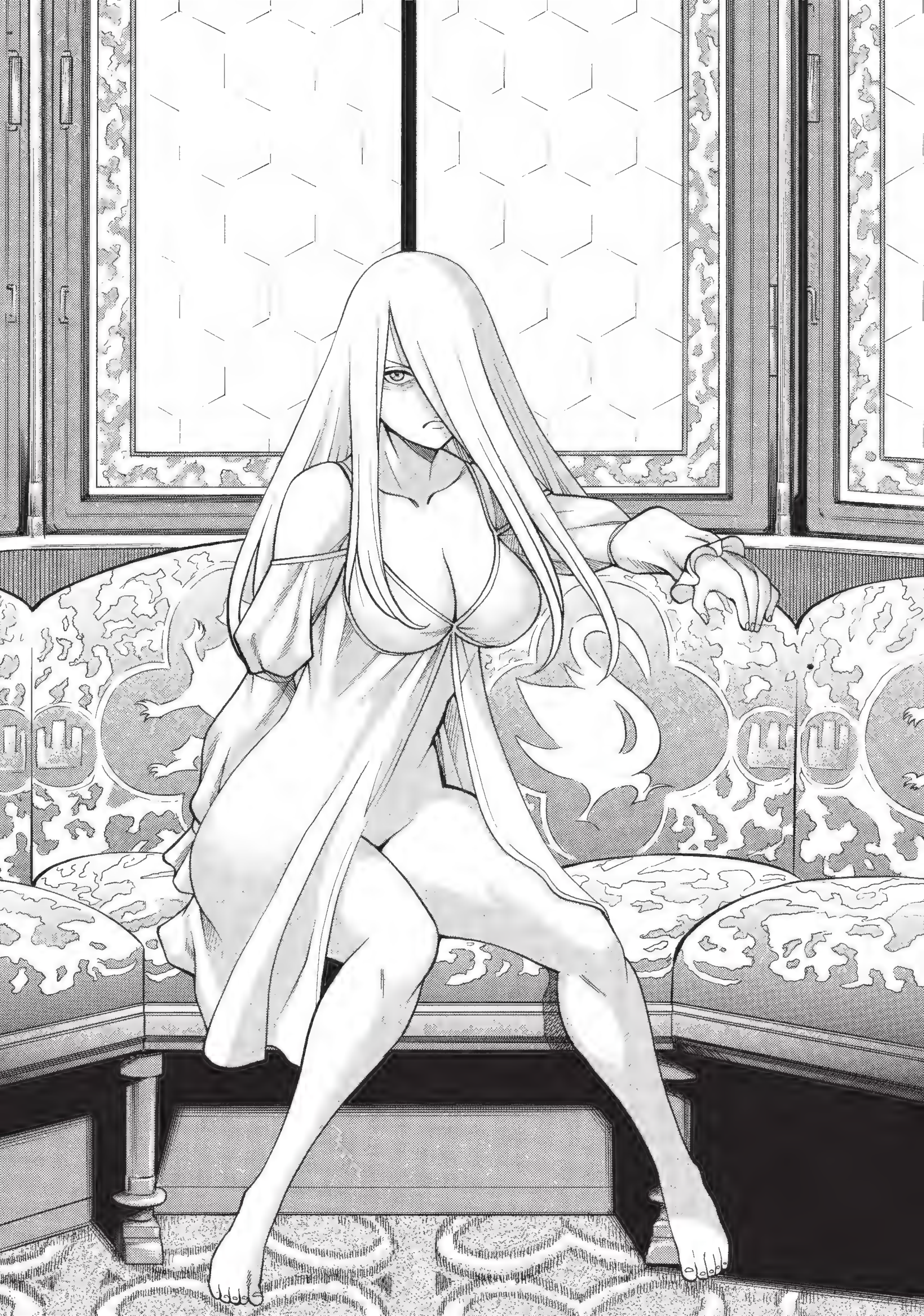




GOOD
MORNING,
MY
LOVELY
BRIDE.

HOW
DO YOU
FARE
TODAY?







I MUST SAY, YOU DO NOT LOOK WELL. I HEAR YOU HAVE NOT BEEN SLEEPING...

NOR PARTAKING OF MUCH BLOOD.



IT MAY SEEM RATHER HUMBLE ON THE OUTSIDE, BUT THIS IS THE CORNERSTONE OF CLAN ROZEN-MANN.

"FESTERING PIT"? REALLY NOW, MY DEAR...



A STONE CASTLE BUILT IN THE VERY HEART OF THE AMAZON...? PREPOSTEROUS.

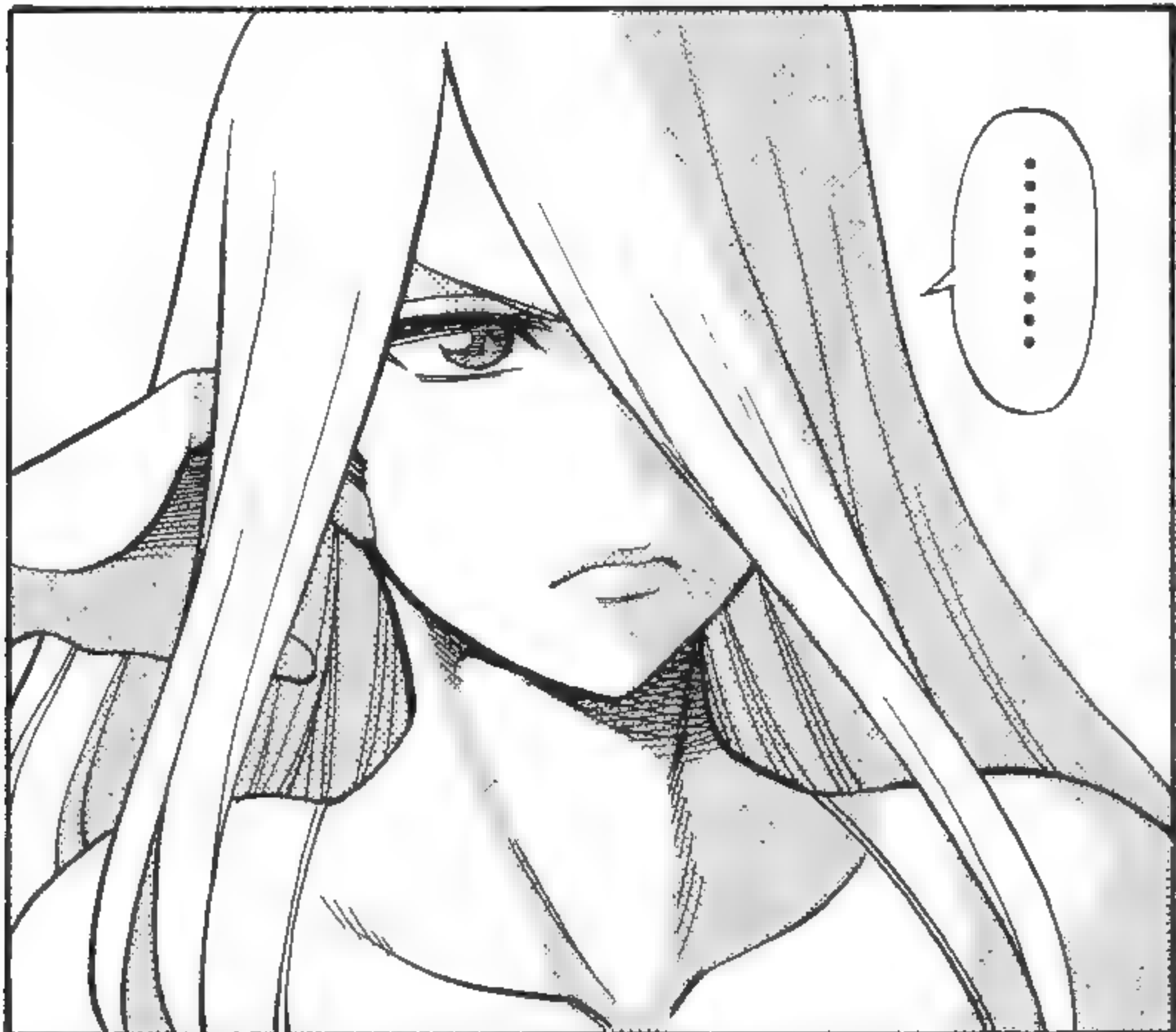
HMPH. I HAD HEARD THAT THERE ONCE WAS A FOOL WHO DECIDED TO BUILD AN OPERA HOUSE IN MANAUS*, NEVER MIND THAT IT IS NEARLY A THOUSAND MILES DEEP IN THE JUNGLE, WITH THE FURNISHINGS IMPORTED ALL THE WAY FROM PARIS, NO LESS.

BUT THIS...? THIS MAKES THAT EXTRAVAGANT BIT OF FRIVOLITY LOOK POSITIVELY TAME IN COMPARISON.

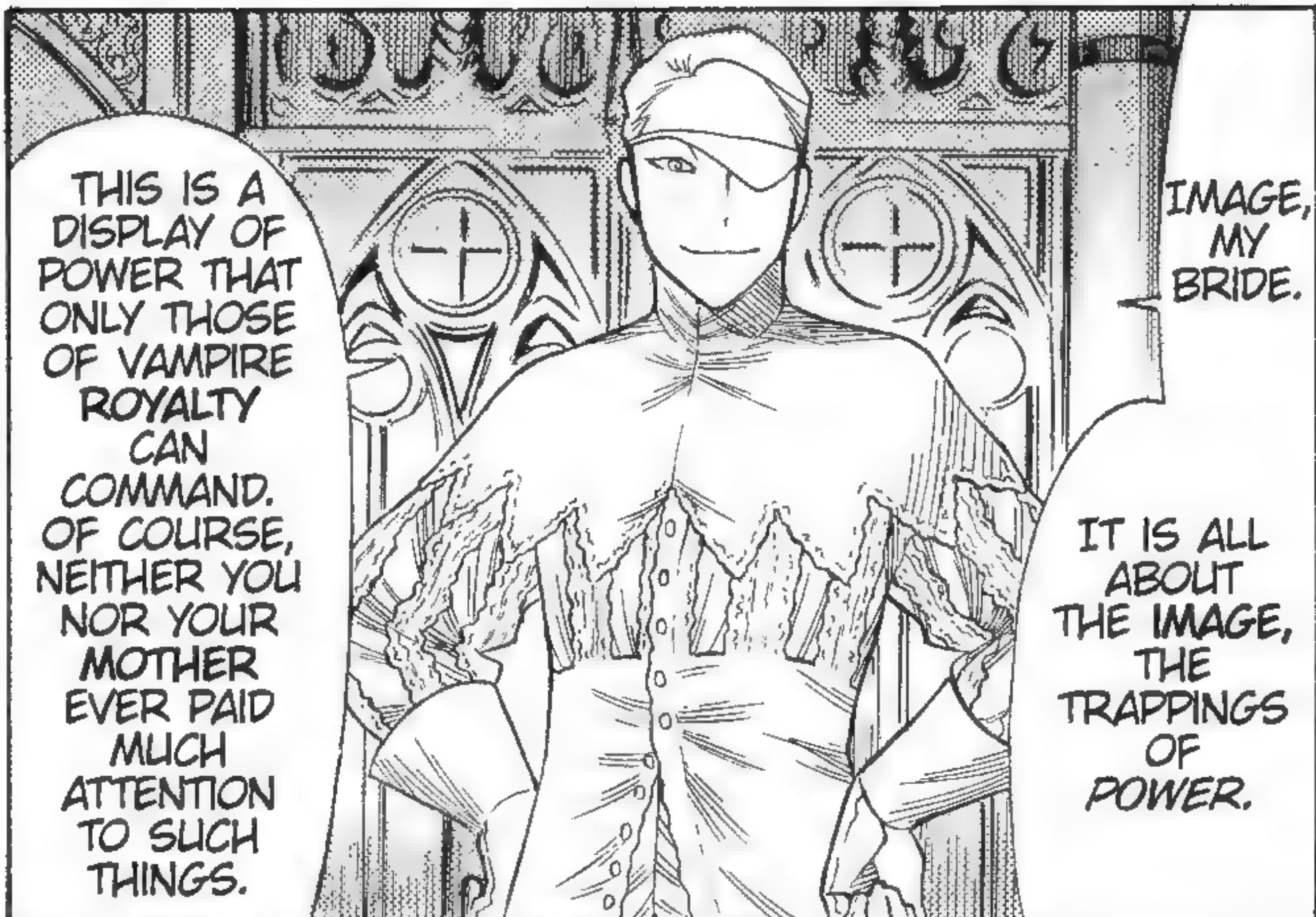


WHO COULD RELAX IN THIS FESTERING PIT OF VIPERS? THE VERY IDEA IS RIDICULOUS.

*During the rubber boom in the 1800s, the Teatro Amazonas opera house was built in Manaus with costly imported building materials, and filled with European art, crystal, and furnishings.



.....



THIS IS A
DISPLAY OF
POWER THAT
ONLY THOSE
OF VAMPIRE
ROYALTY
CAN
COMMAND.
OF COURSE,
NEITHER YOU
NOR YOUR
MOTHER
EVER PAID
MUCH
ATTENTION
TO SUCH
THINGS.

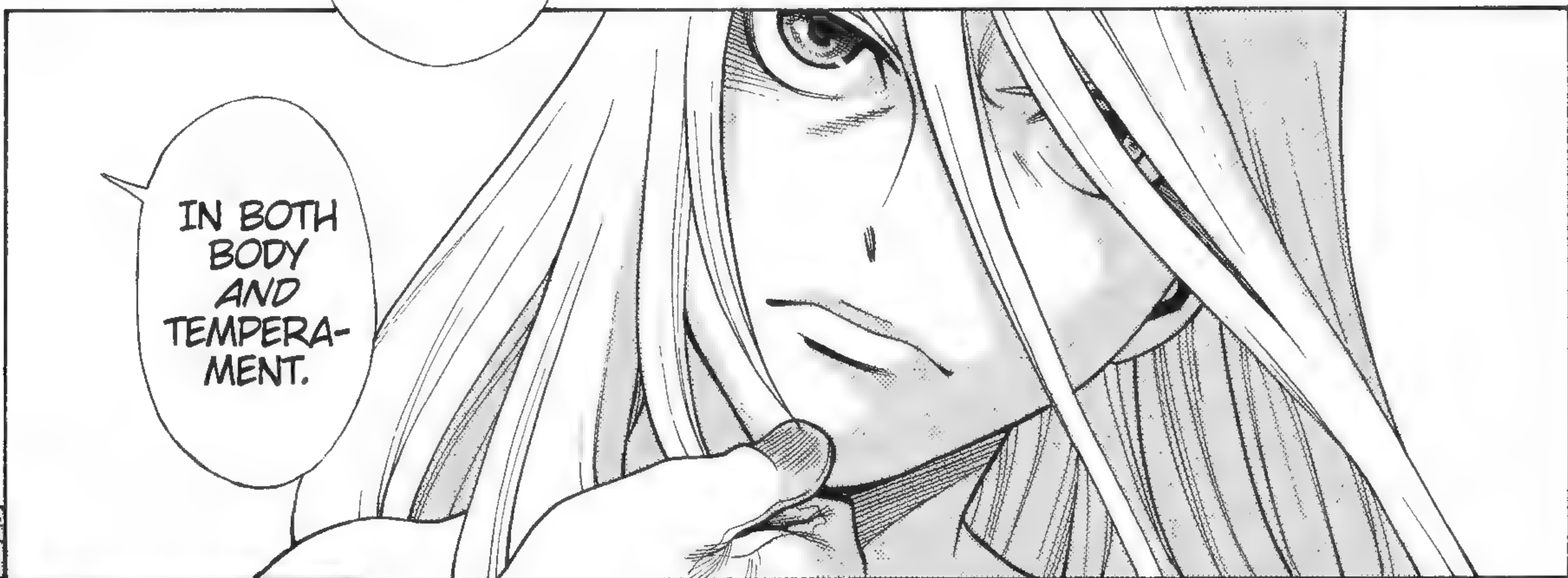
IMAGE,
MY
BRIDE.

IT IS ALL
ABOUT
THE IMAGE,
THE
TRAPPINGS
OF
POWER.

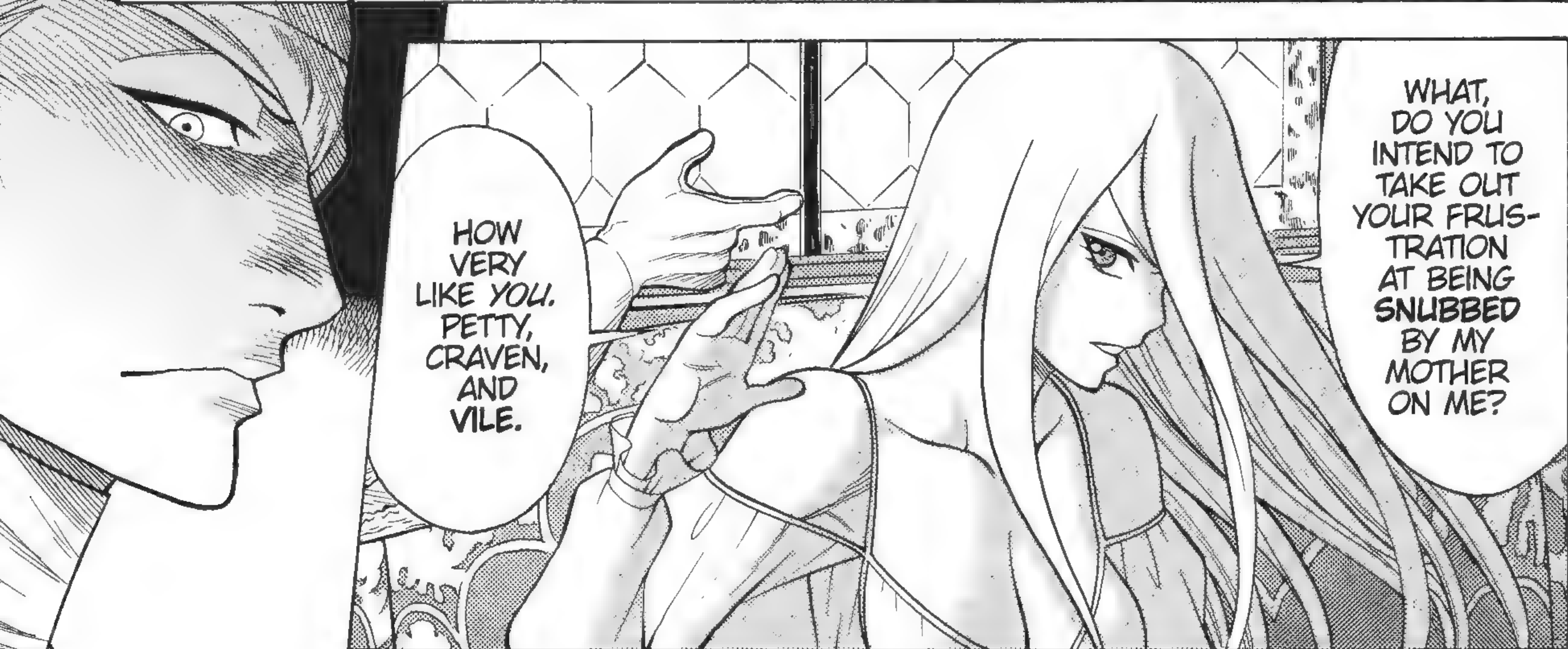


INDEED,
YOU
NEARLY
ARE HER,
COME
AGAIN...

YOU
LOOK
SO
MUCH
LIKE
HER.

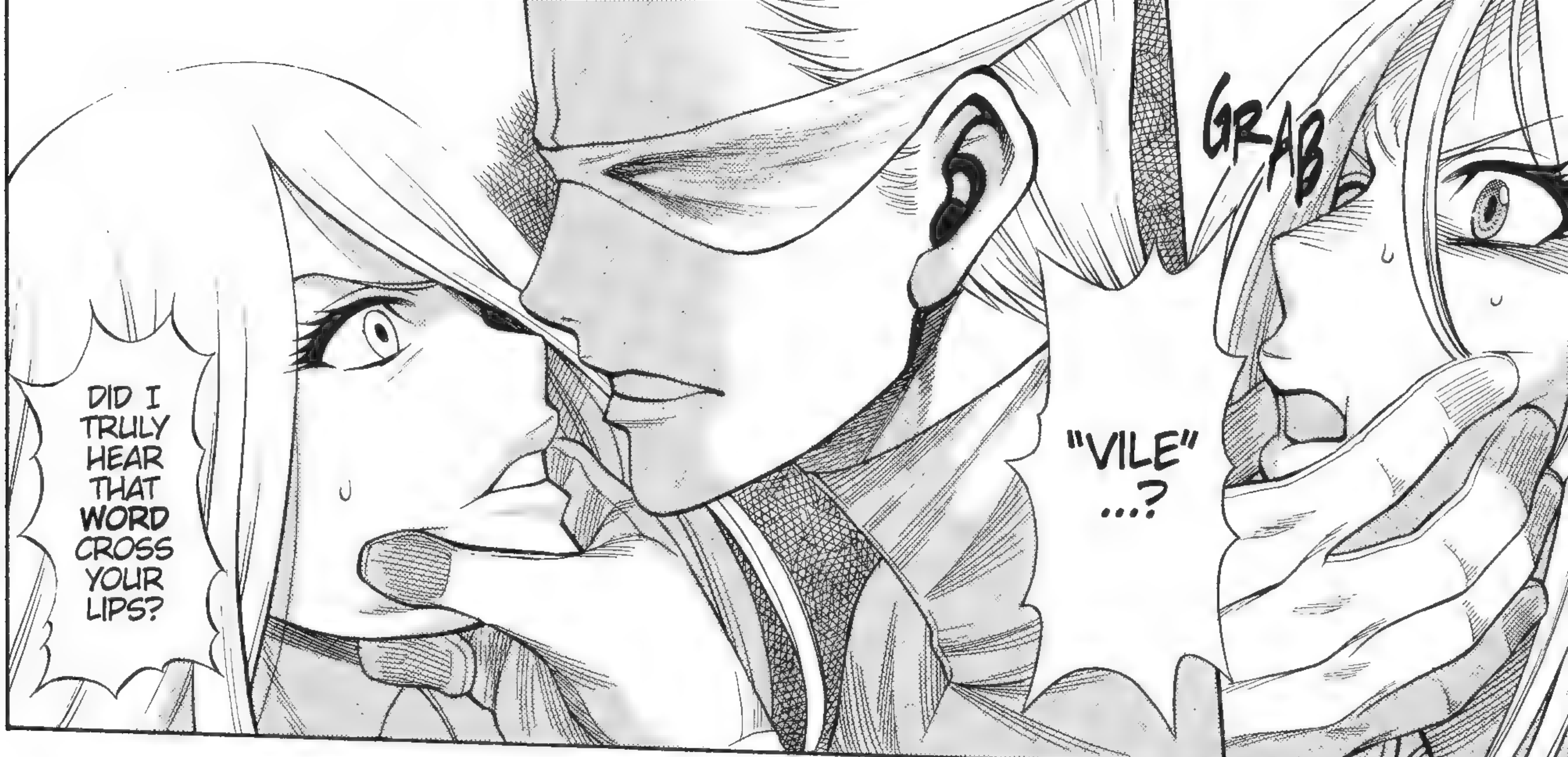


IN BOTH
BODY
AND
TEMPERA-
MENT.



HOW
VERY
LIKE YOU.
PETTY,
CRAVEN,
AND
VILE.

WHAT,
DO YOU
INTEND TO
TAKE OUT
YOUR FRUS-
TRATION
AT BEING
SNUBBED
BY MY
MOTHER
ON ME?



DID I
TRULY
HEAR
THAT
WORD
CROSS
YOUR
LIPS?

"VILE"
...?

GRAB

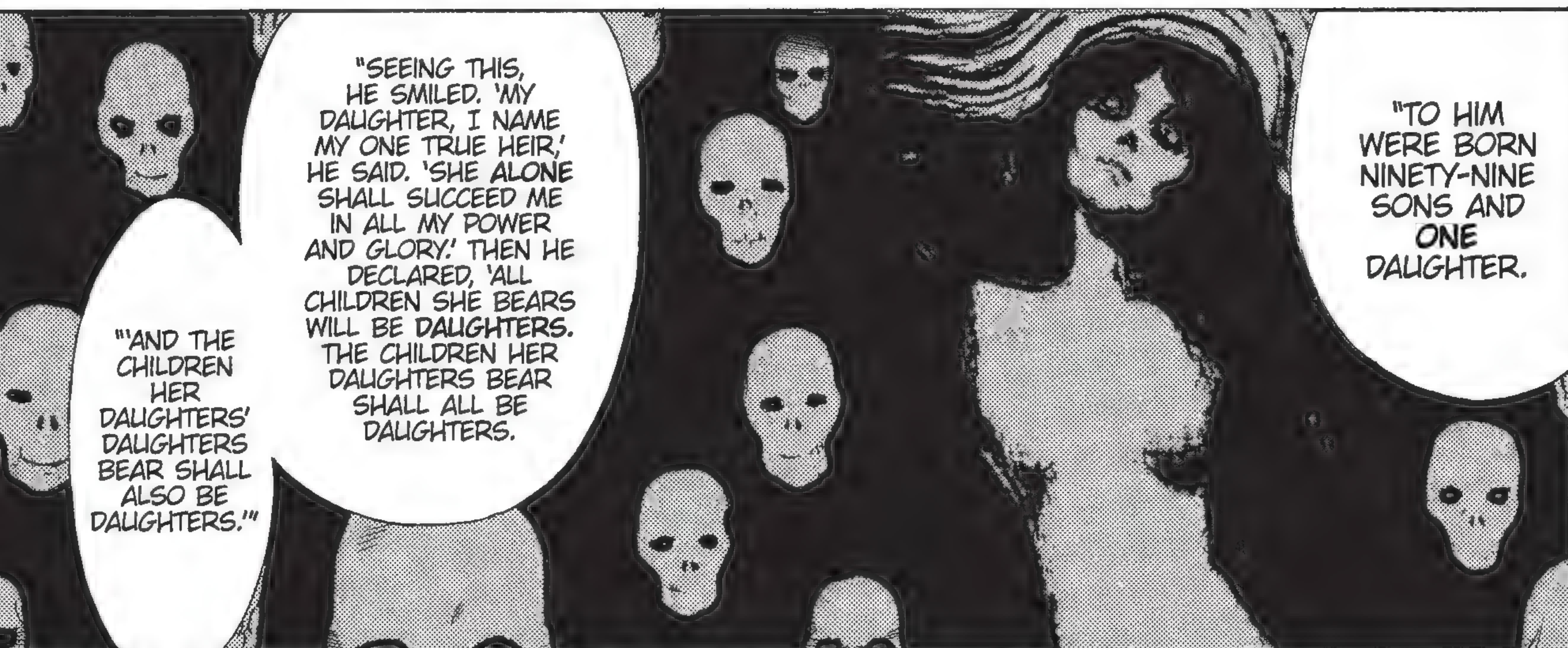
YOU KNOW
THE TRUTH
ABOUT
YOUR OWN
VULGAR
CREATION...

AND
YET YOU
DARE
TO CALL
ME
"VILE"?!



"THE FATHER OF ALL VAMPIRES, THE ONE TRUE CREATOR OF THE CHILDREN OF THE NIGHT, DESCENDED TO EARTH AND REIGNED IN THE PROMISED LAND.

"IN ANCIENT TIMES ...



"SEEING THIS, HE SMILED. 'MY DAUGHTER, I NAME MY ONE TRUE HEIR,' HE SAID. 'SHE ALONE SHALL SUCCEED ME IN ALL MY POWER AND GLORY.' THEN HE DECLARED, 'ALL CHILDREN SHE BEARS WILL BE DAUGHTERS. THE CHILDREN HER DAUGHTERS BEAR SHALL ALL BE DAUGHTERS.

"TO HIM WERE BORN NINETY-NINE SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER.

"AND THE CHILDREN HER DAUGHTERS' DAUGHTERS BEAR SHALL ALSO BE DAUGHTERS."



WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WAS FORCED TO LISTEN TO THAT, REPEATEDLY... I CAN RECITE IT IN MY SLEEP.

"KNOW THEM, AND PLANT IN THEM YOUR SEED. FOR THIS IS THE WAY OF THE TRUE BLOOD."

"SONS OF MINE, WORSHIP YOUR SISTERS, YOUR AUNTS, AND YOUR NIECES. WORSHIP THEM, AND TAKE THEM TO WIFE.



YOUR GRAND-MOTHER... YOUR GRAND-MOTHER'S GRAND-MOTHER...

THAT WAS THE WAY IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME!

FOR MILLENNIA, THAT TRADITION WAS PRESERVED. THE QUEEN OF THE ROYAL FAMILY WOULD ALWAYS TAKE A HUSBAND FROM ONE OF THE GREAT CLANS TO ASSURE THAT THE TRUE BLOOD CONTINUED TO BE PURE.



THE CLANS
FELL INTO
CHAOS.
BROTHER
FOUGHT
AGAINST
BROTHER
UNTIL BOTH
WERE
DEAD!

IF IT HADN'T
BEEN FOR US,
THE THREE
GREAT CLANS,
THAT WAR
MIGHT HAVE
WIPED OUT
THE ENTIRE
VAMPIRE
NATION.



AND YOU
BELIEVE
THAT WITH
EVERY
FIBER OF
YOUR
BEING, I'M
SURE...

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE IT
ANY LESS
OF AN
EXCUSE.



UNTIL
SHE
BROUGHT
IT TO
AN END!

LUCRETIA
DES-
TROYED
IT
ALL!!

CAN YOU
IMAGINE
THE
HUMILIA-
TION...?

THE
DIGNITY
OF THE
ENTIRE
ROYAL
LINE WAS
CAST
INTO THE
MUD.

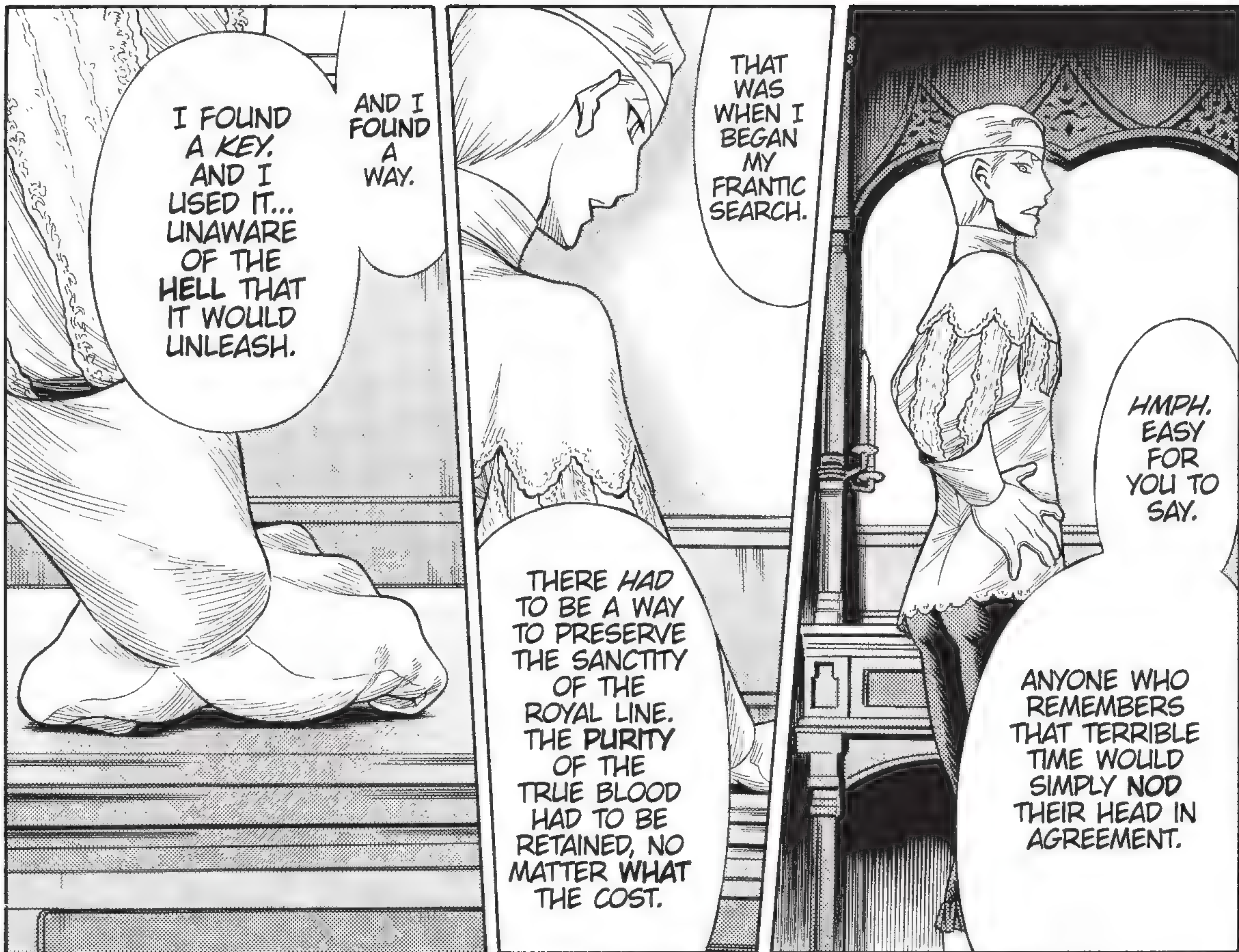
SHE COULD
HAVE CHOSEN
ANY ONE OF US!
SHE HAD NO LACK
OF PROPER SUITORS!
BUT INSTEAD,
SHE TURNED HER
BACK ON US AND
CHOSE TO FORNICATE
WITH SOME
NAMELESS MONGREL!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT
SHE BORE THAT
SCOUNDREL A
WHELP--YOU!!



DO YOU
HAVE
ANY IDEA
OF THE
ENORMITY
OF HER
SIN?!

SINCE THEN,
IT HAS BEEN
AN AGE OF
DARKNESS!
AN AGE OF
TERROR
FOR THE
CHILDREN OF
THE NIGHT!!

THE
QUEEN
HERSELF
ENDED THE
ROYAL LINE.
SHE ENDED
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS
OF GLORIOUS
HISTORY
WITH HER
OWN
SULLIED
HANDS!!



I FOUND
A KEY.
AND I
USED IT...
UNAWARE
OF THE
HELL THAT
IT WOULD
UNLEASH.

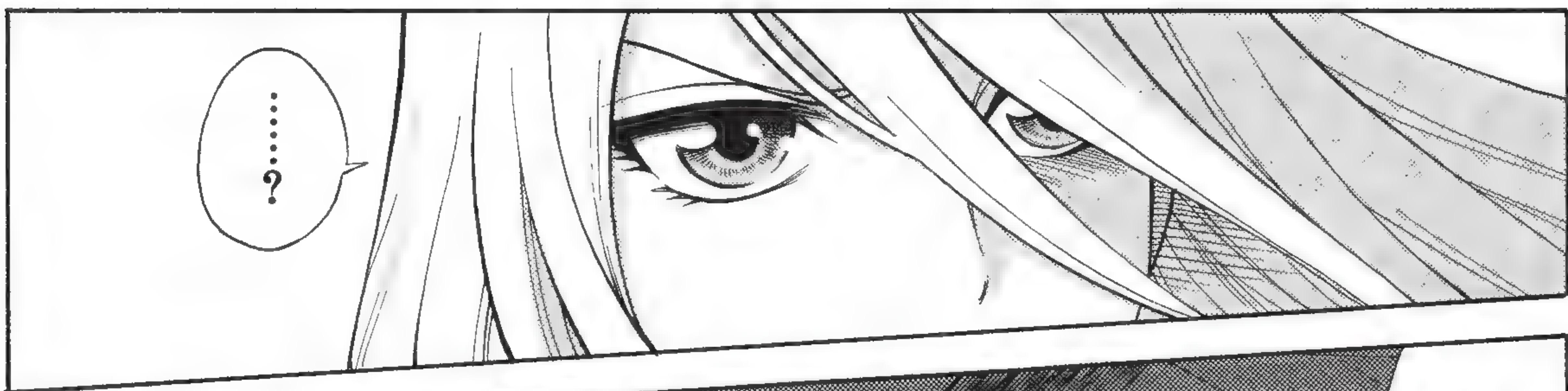
AND I
FOUND
A
WAY.

THAT
WAS
WHEN I
BEGAN
MY
FRANTIC
SEARCH.

THERE HAD
TO BE A WAY
TO PRESERVE
THE SANCTITY
OF THE
ROYAL LINE.
THE PURITY
OF THE
TRUE BLOOD
HAD TO BE
RETAINED, NO
MATTER WHAT
THE COST.

HMPH.
EASY
FOR
YOU TO
SAY.

ANYONE WHO
REMEMBERS
THAT TERRIBLE
TIME WOULD
SIMPLY NOD
THEIR HEAD IN
AGREEMENT.



.....
?



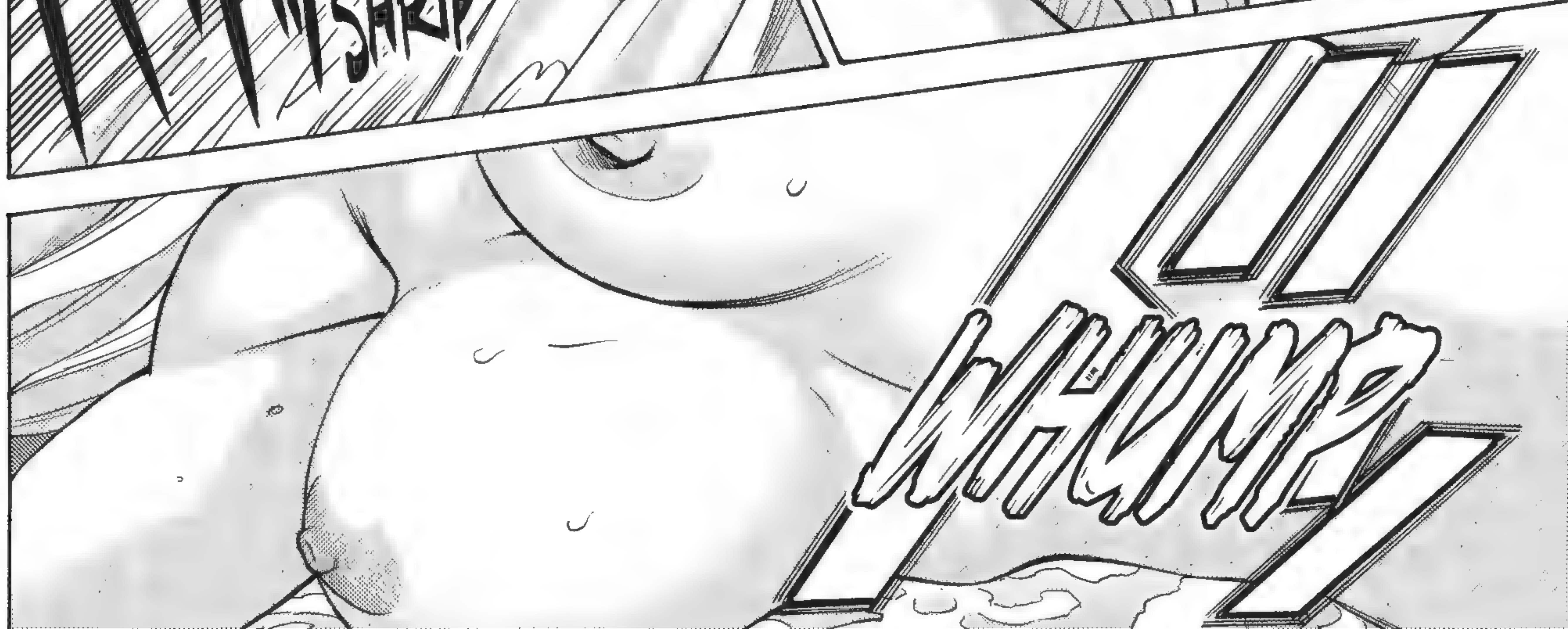
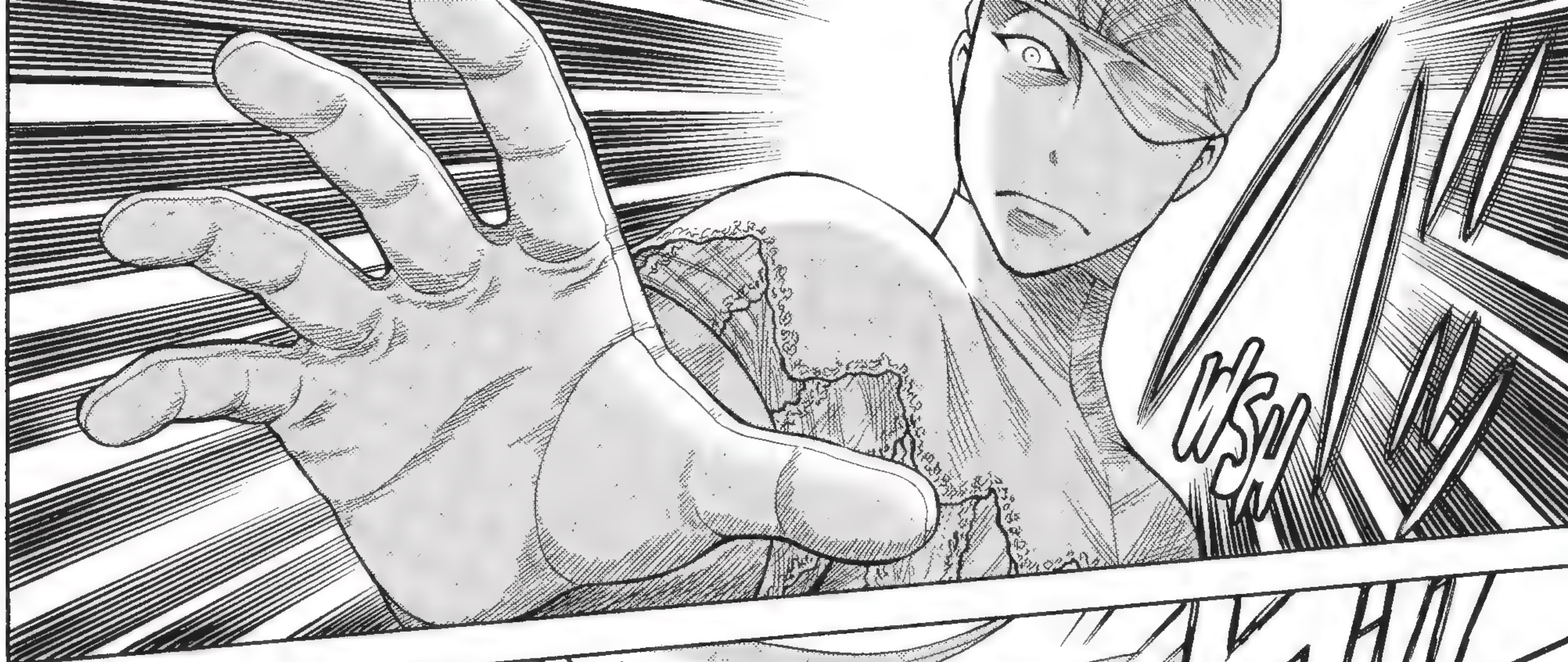
THE
PRESENT
MOMENT
IS
EVERY-
THING...


NAUGHT
CAN BE
DONE TO
CHANGE
IT.

BUT
NONE
OF THAT
IS OF
ANY
CONSE-
QUENCE
NOW.

THAT
IS ALL
IN THE
PAST.

AND
RIGHT
NOW,
I HAVE
YOU.





LUCRETIA
STEERED
THE ROYAL
LINE AWAY
FROM THE
TRUE
BLOOD...

I SHALL
BE THE
ONE TO
CORRECT
ITS
COURSE.

AND
I WILL
USE
YOU TO
DO IT...




WELL....?
GO ON!

OR ARE
YOU JUST
GOING TO
STAND
THERE AND
FIDGET LIKE
A VIRGIN
SCHOOLBOY,
WHILE YOU
STARE AT
ME?

WHY
HESITATE?
FORCE
YOURSELF
UPON ME!
FILL ME WITH
YOUR SEED,
AND MAKE ME
BEAR YOUR
CHILD!

THEN
WHY
HAVEN'T
YOU
RAPED
ME
YET?



DO
YOU
WANT
ME TO
TELL
YOU
WHY
YOU
WON'T
?

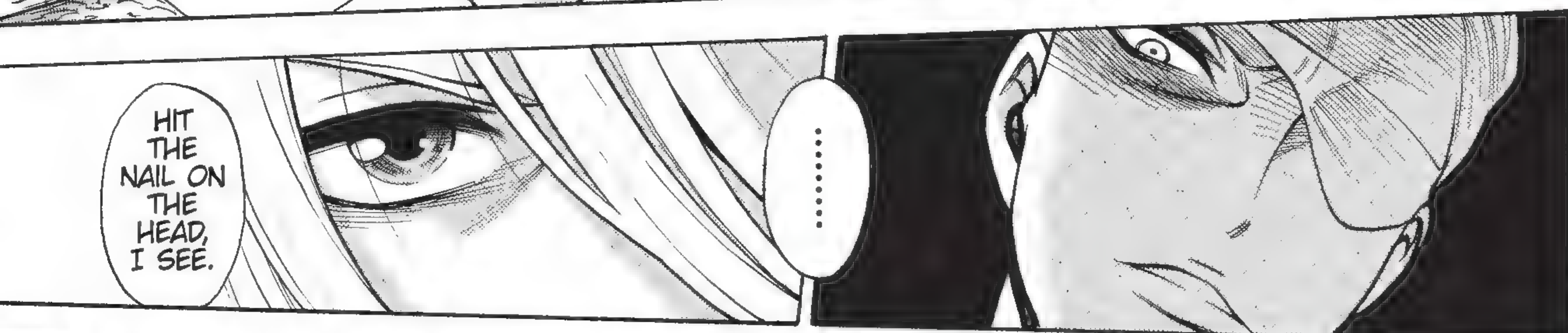
BECAUSE
WHATEVER
IT IS
YOU'RE
DOING
TO ME,
IT'S NOT
COMPLETE
YET.



SO, EVEN IF YOU WERE TO IMPREGNATE ME, IF I SUDDENLY REVERTED BACK TO MY CHILD FORM BEFORE THE INFANT WAS BORN, YOU ARE STUCK RIGHT BACK AT SQUARE ONE!!

WHATEVER DRUG YOU ARE CONCOCTING TO FREEZE ME IN MY AVATAR FORM, IT'S NOT QUITE STABLE YET, IS IT?

YOU HAVE NO IDEA OF HOW LONG IT WILL ACTUALLY LAST.



HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, I SEE.

.....



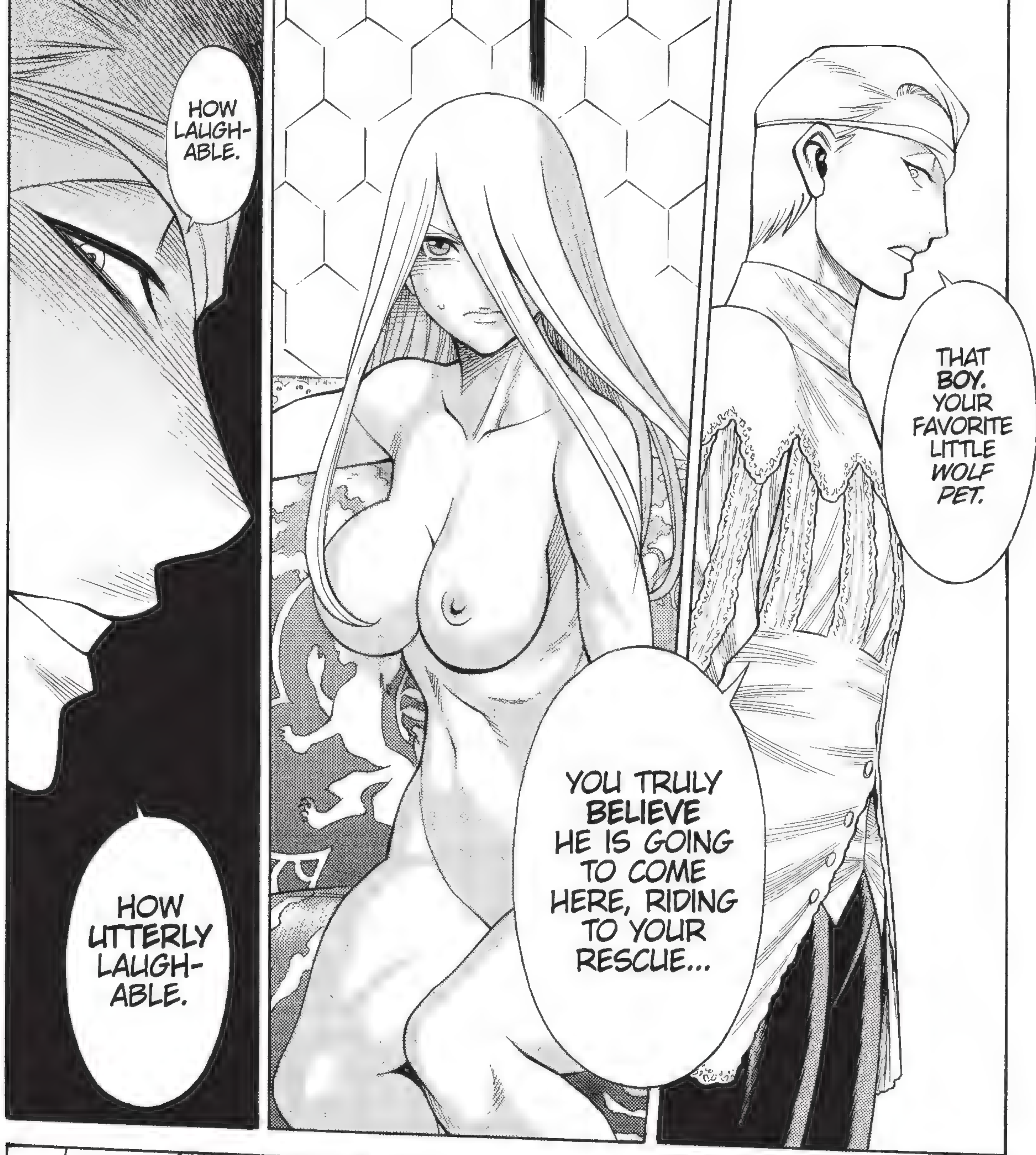
WHO IS THE ONE TRULY STALLING FOR TIME? ME?

WELL, IF YOU WANT TO MAKE ME YOURS IN TRUTH, THEN I SUGGEST YOU GET TO WORK, COMPLETING THAT DRUG.

WHAT ARE YOU STILL STANDING HERE FOR? GET GOING. YOU ARE DISMISSED.

OR IS IT YOU?

FWMB IV





BECAUSE
AKIRA-
SAN IS
DEAD.



MY LORD'S
ASSASSINS
CAUGHT UP
WITH HIM IN
NEW YORK.



YU-
ZURU
...



.....



TELL
HER.

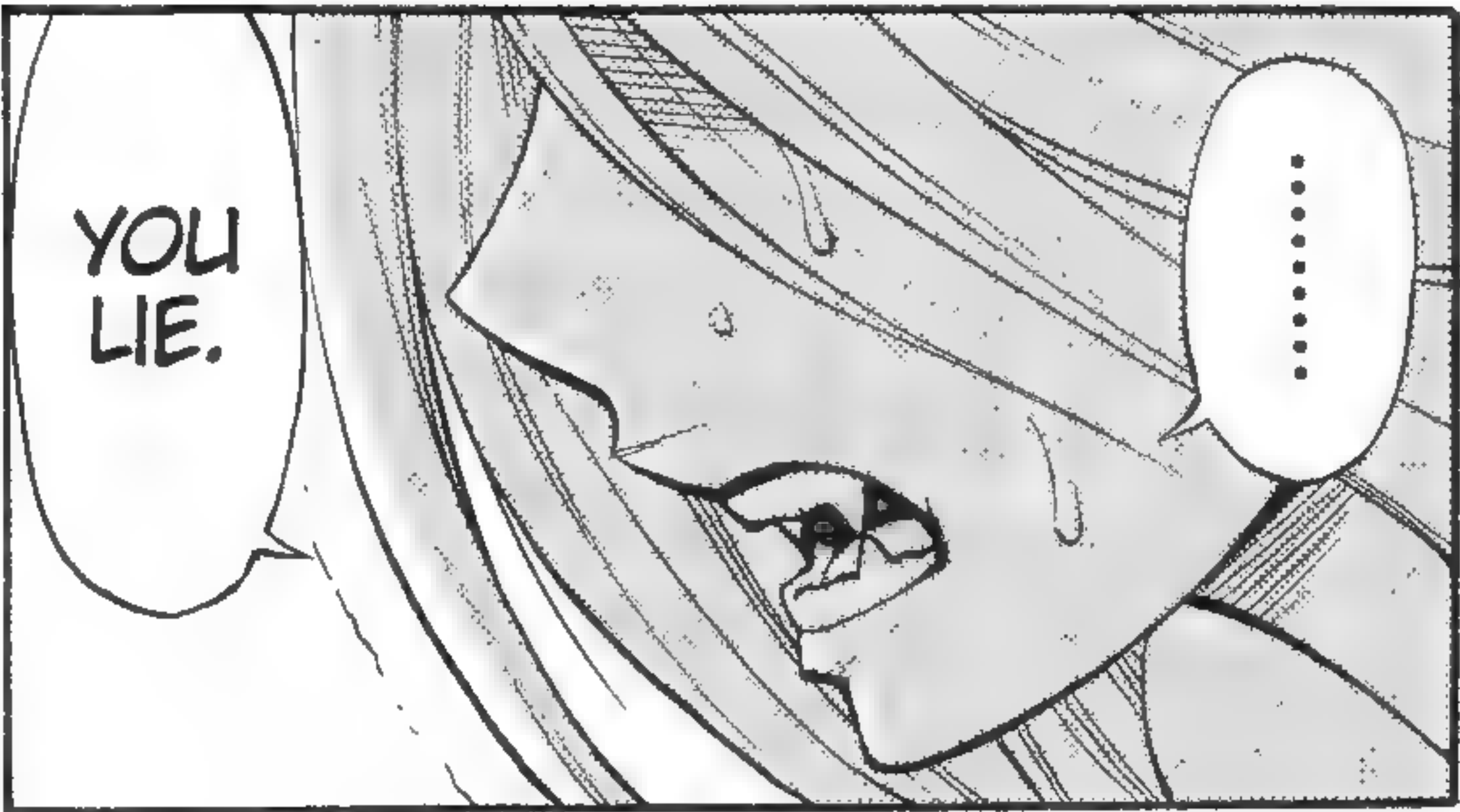


WHAT
HAPPENED
TO AKIRA?
WHY
WON'T HE
COME FOR
ME?!

YUZURU!



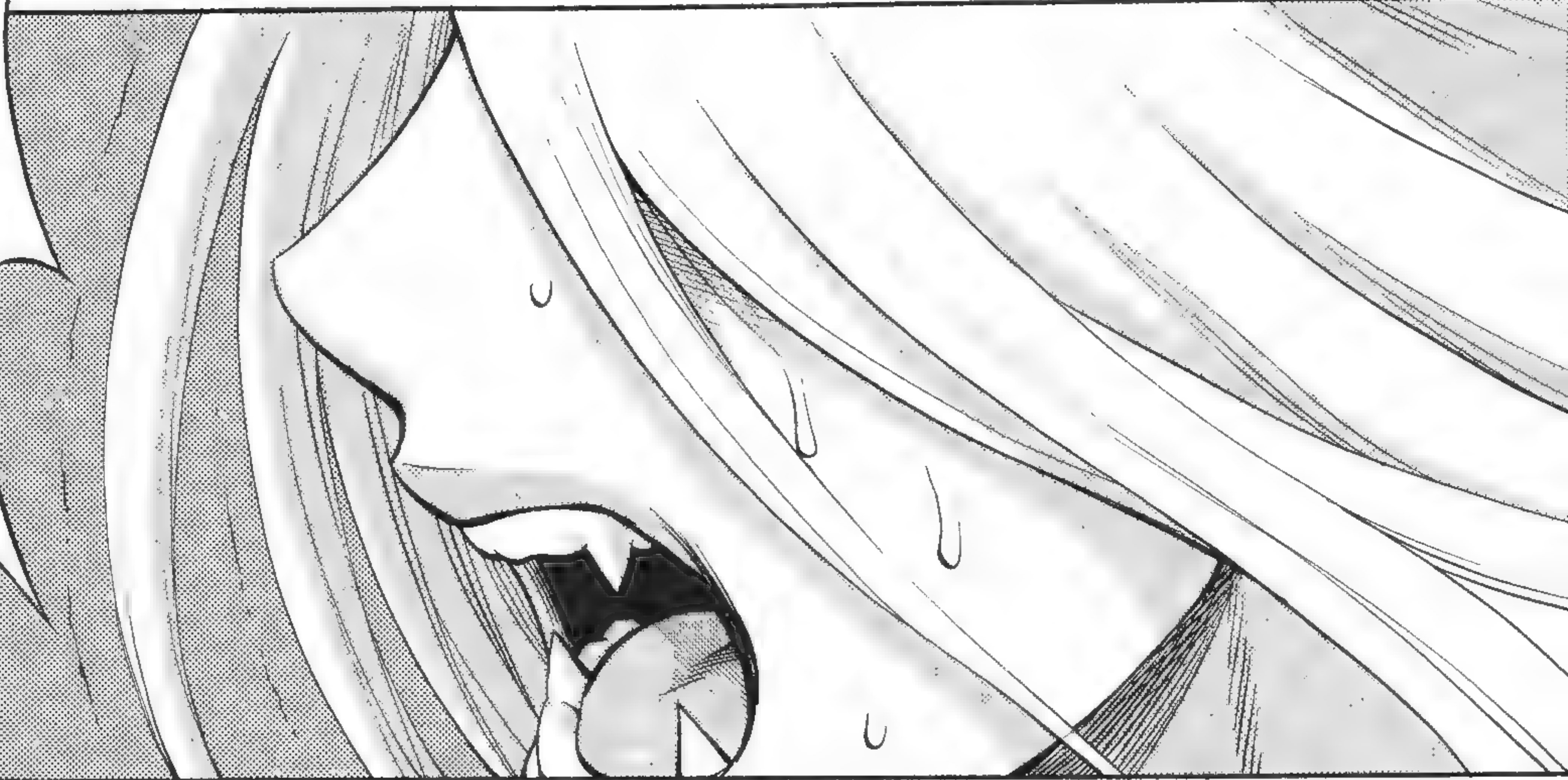
IT HAP-
PENED
TWO
WEEKS
AGO.



YOU
LIE.

.....

**YOU'RE
LYING!!**



AKIRA
CAN'T
BE
DEAD!

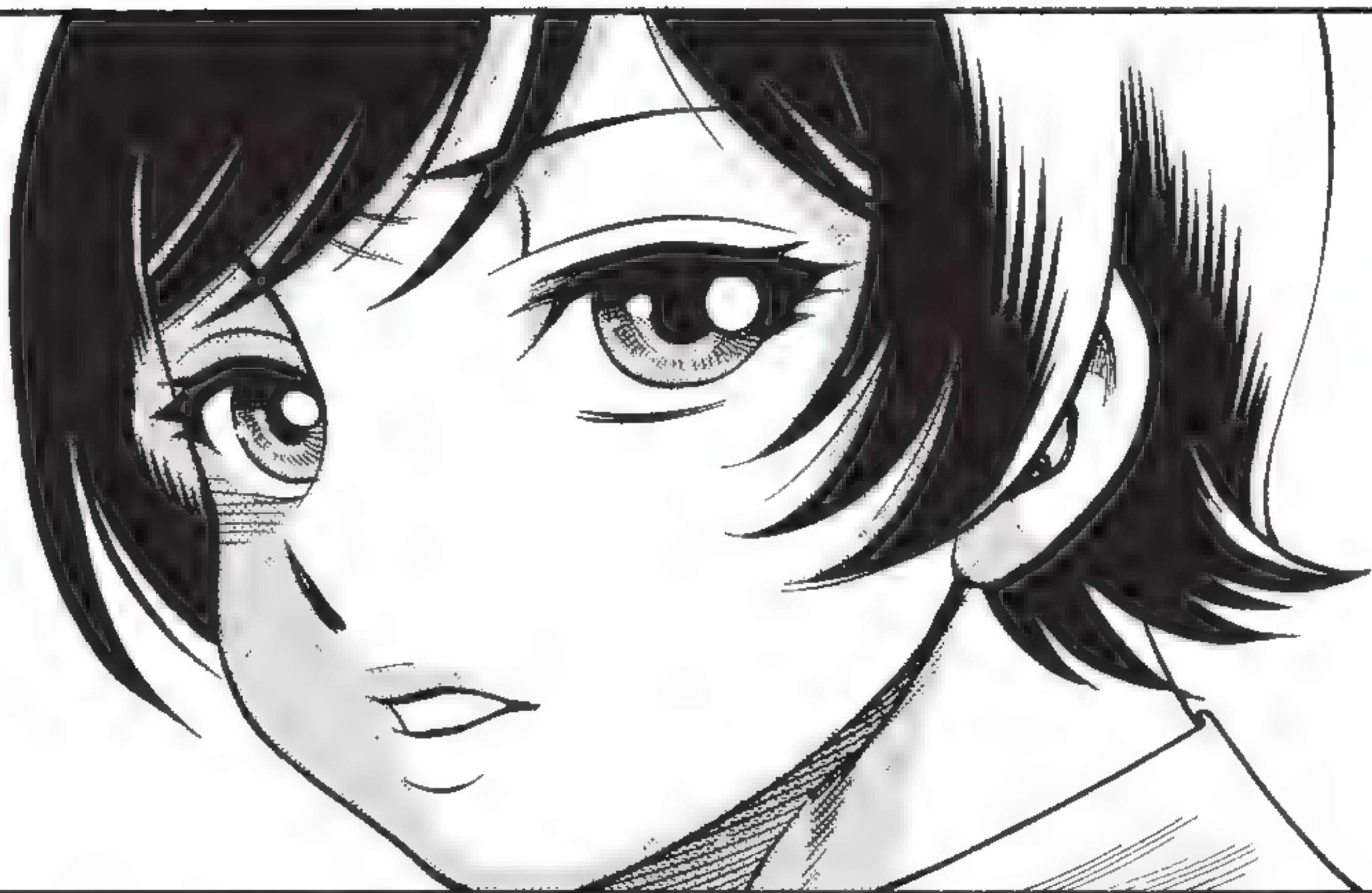
NOT A
WORD
OF WHAT
YOU
SAY IS
TRUE,
YUZURU
!!

HE
WOULD
NEVER
LEAVE
ME
BEHIND!!

YOU
JUST
MADE
THAT
UP TO
TORMENT
ME!

YOUR
LOVED ONE
MAY BE
DEAD, BUT
IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU
WERE
THERE TO
WATCH HIS
DEATH.

YOU'RE
LUCKY.



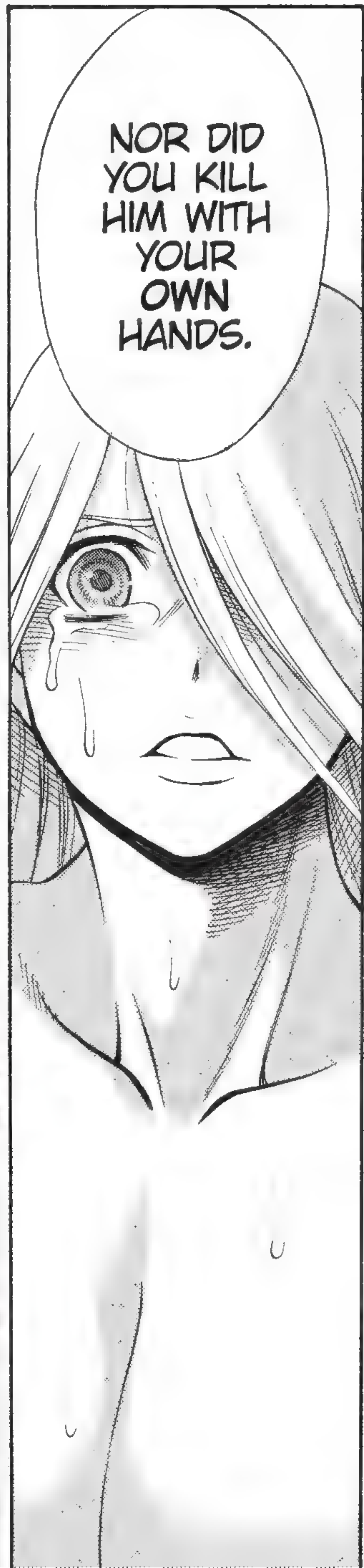
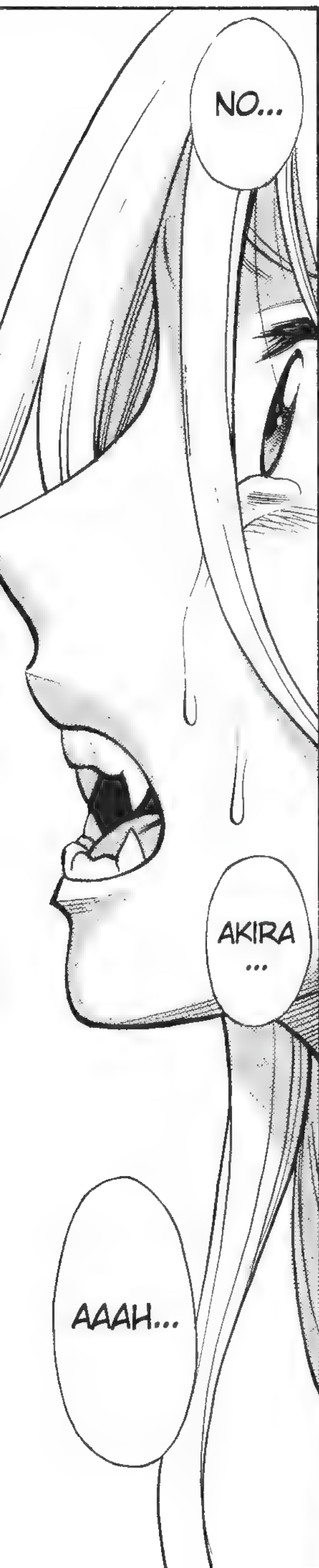
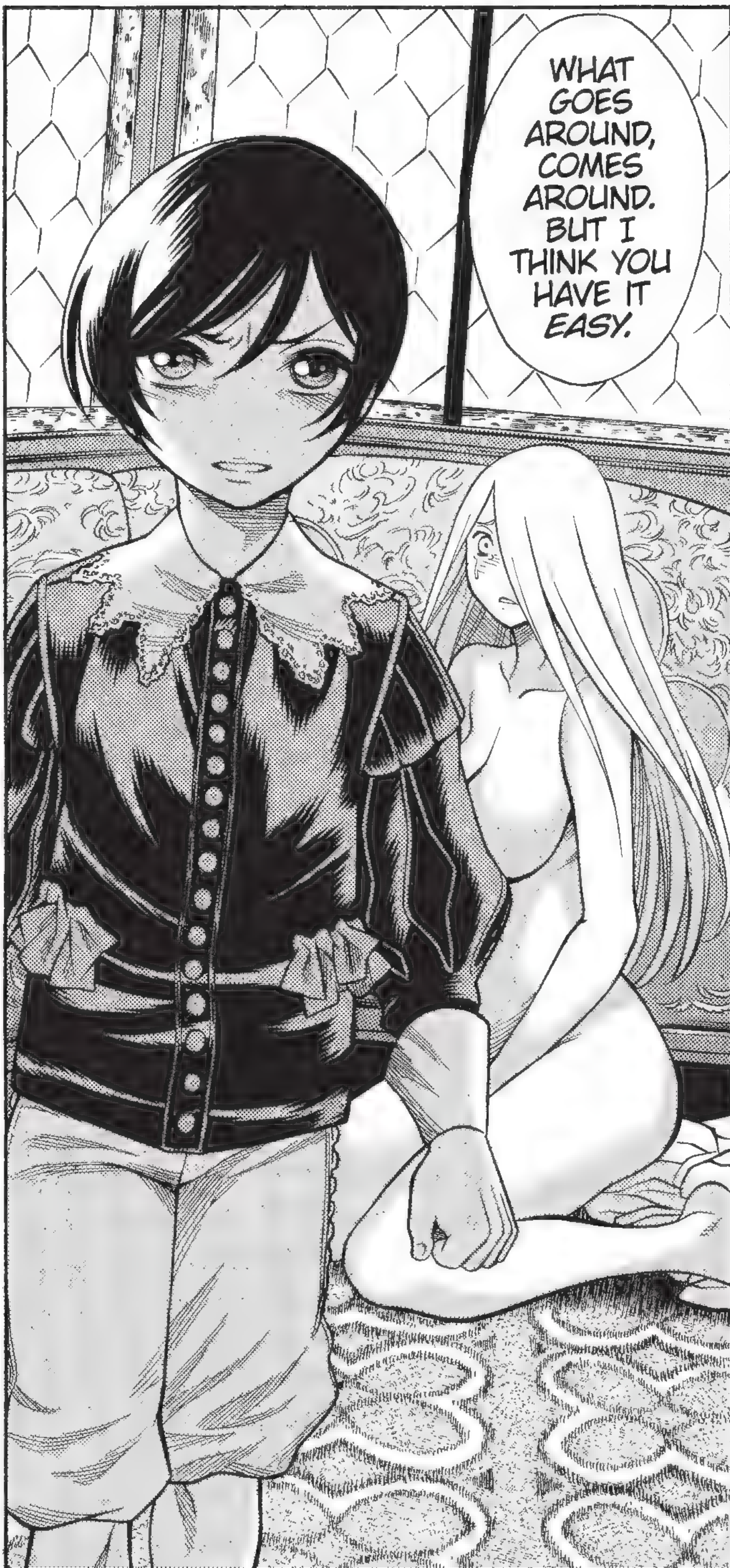
NO...

WHAT
GOES
AROUND,
COMES
AROUND.
BUT I
THINK YOU
HAVE IT
EASY.

NOR DID
YOU KILL
HIM WITH
YOUR
OWN
HANDS.

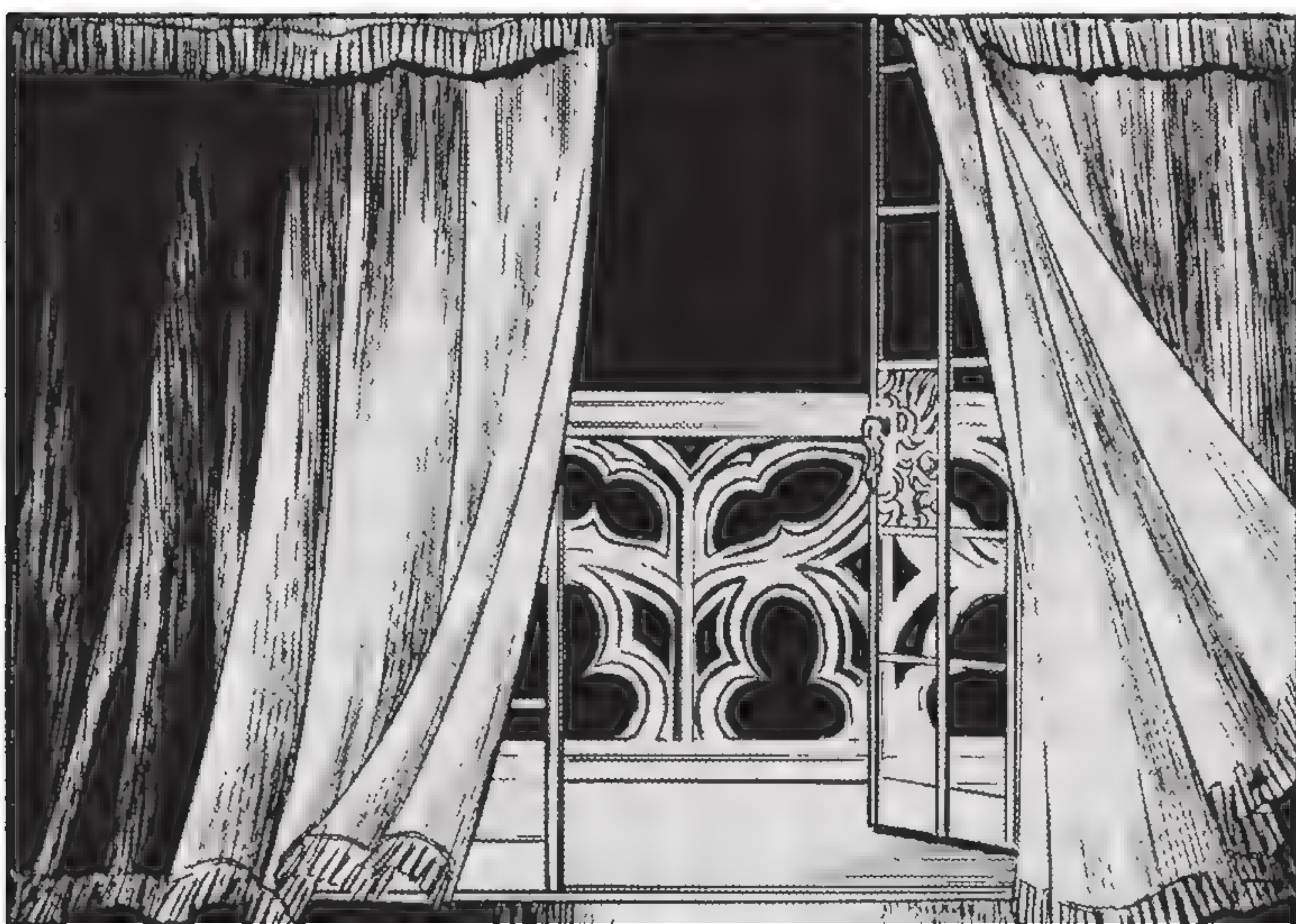
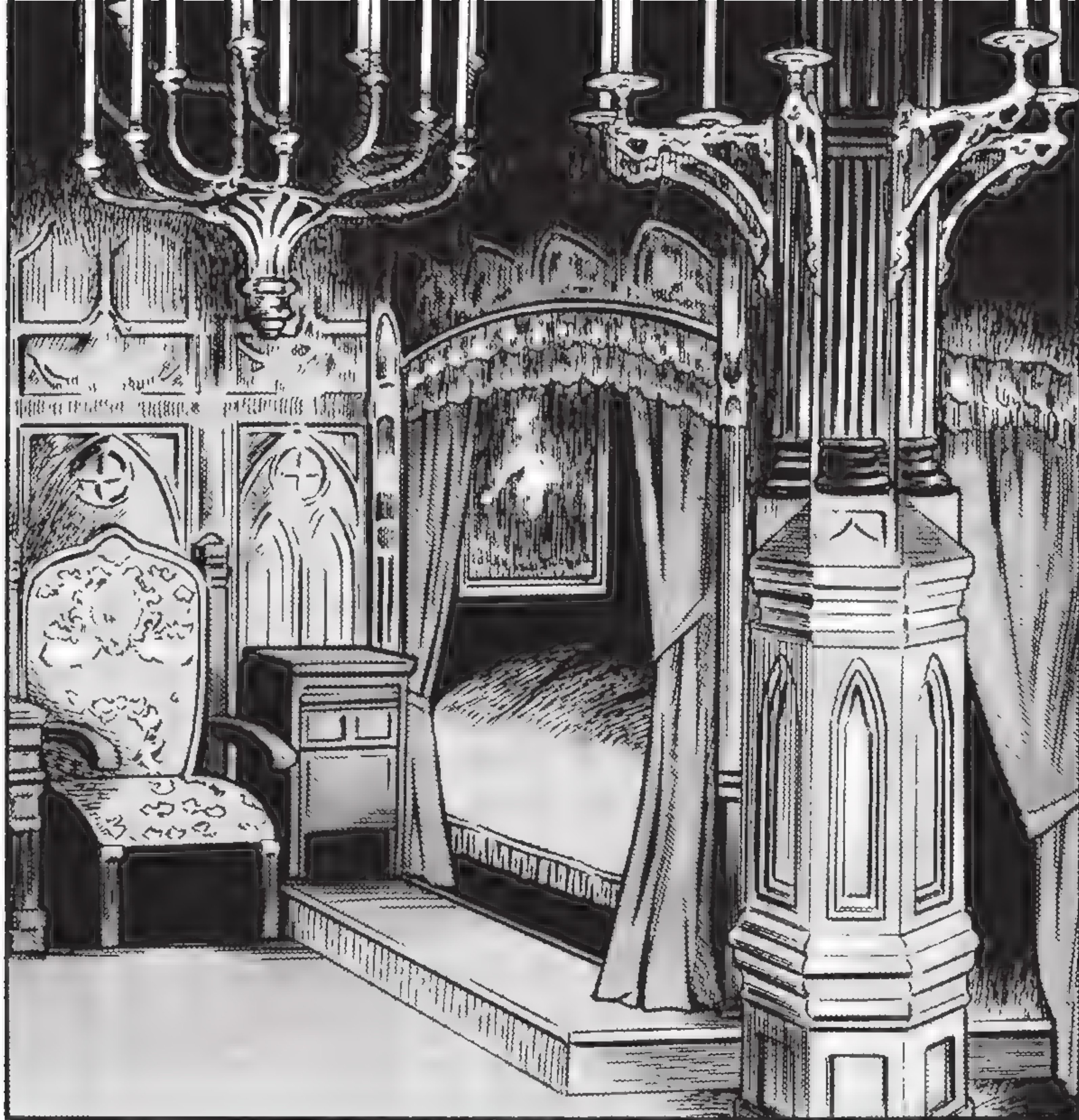
AKIRA
...

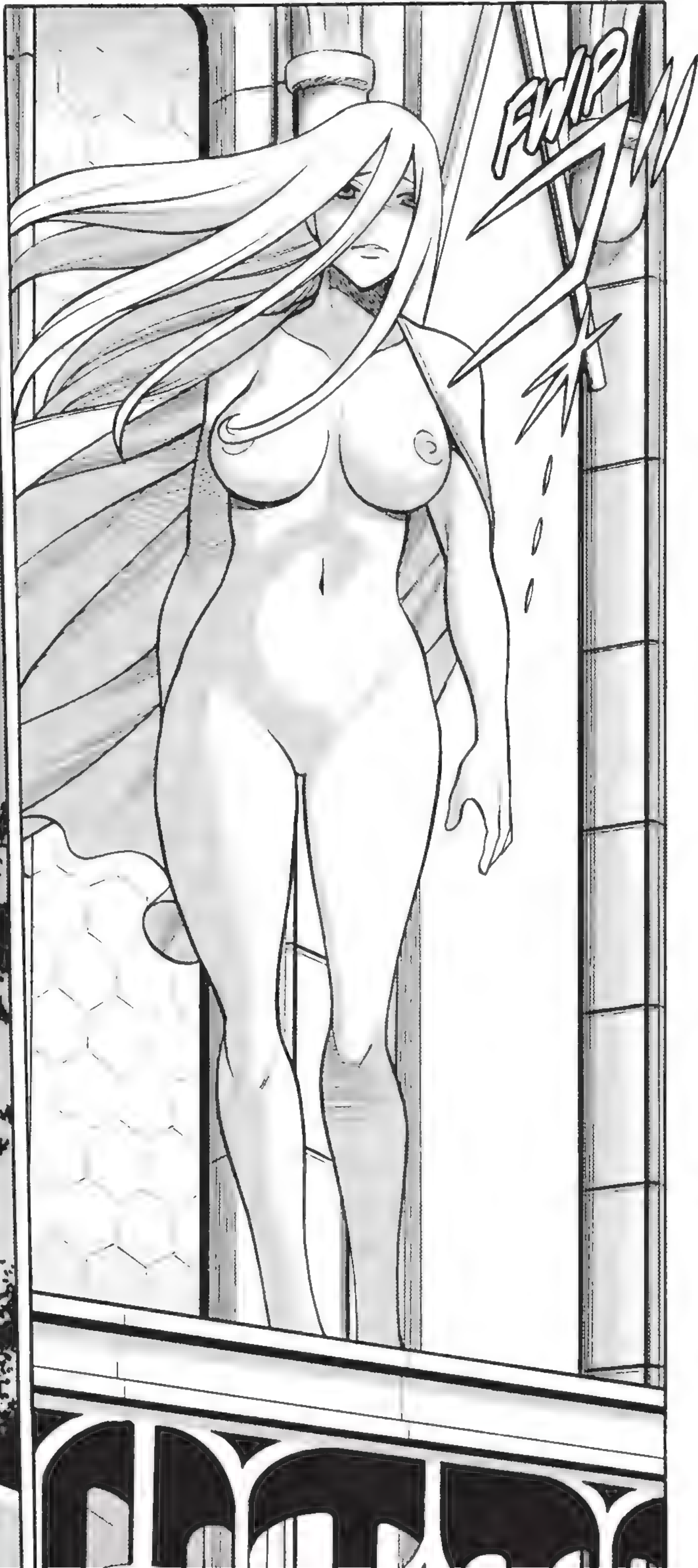
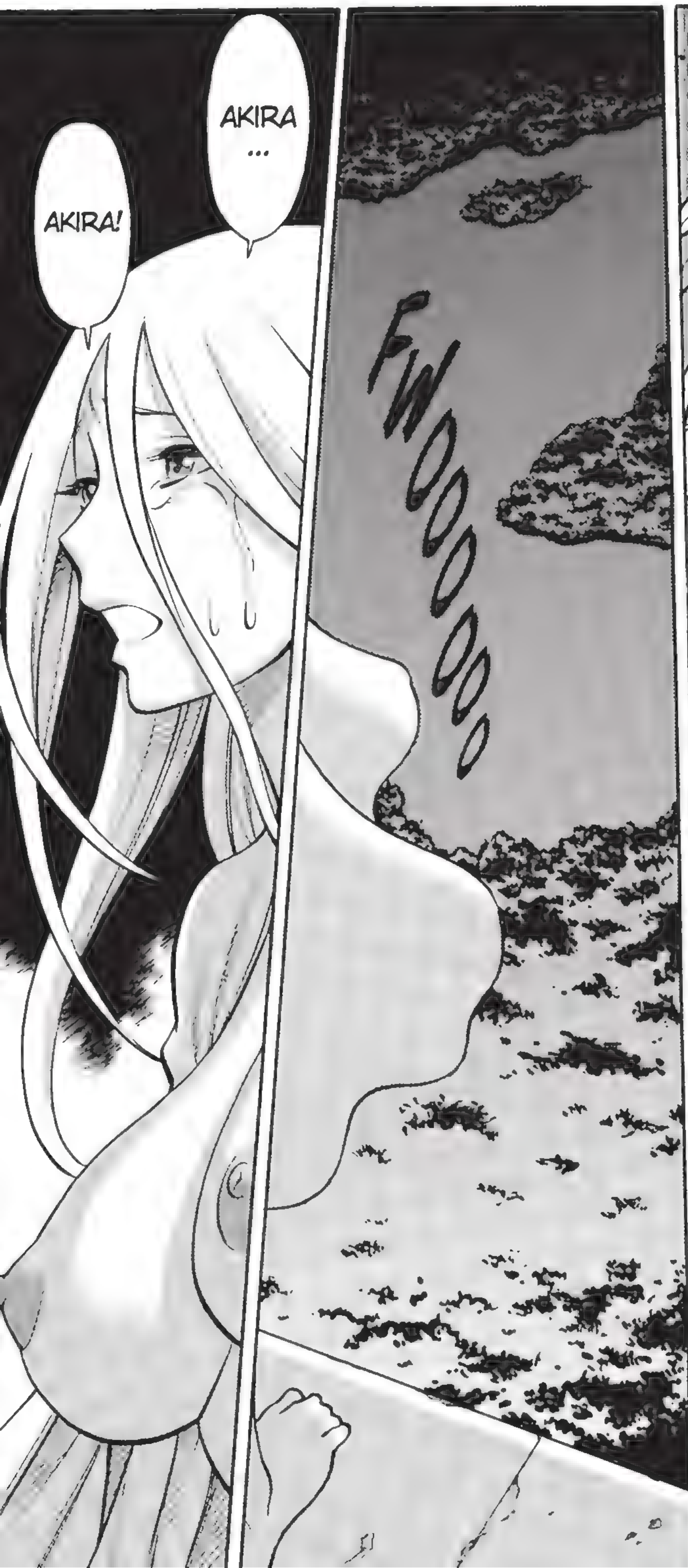
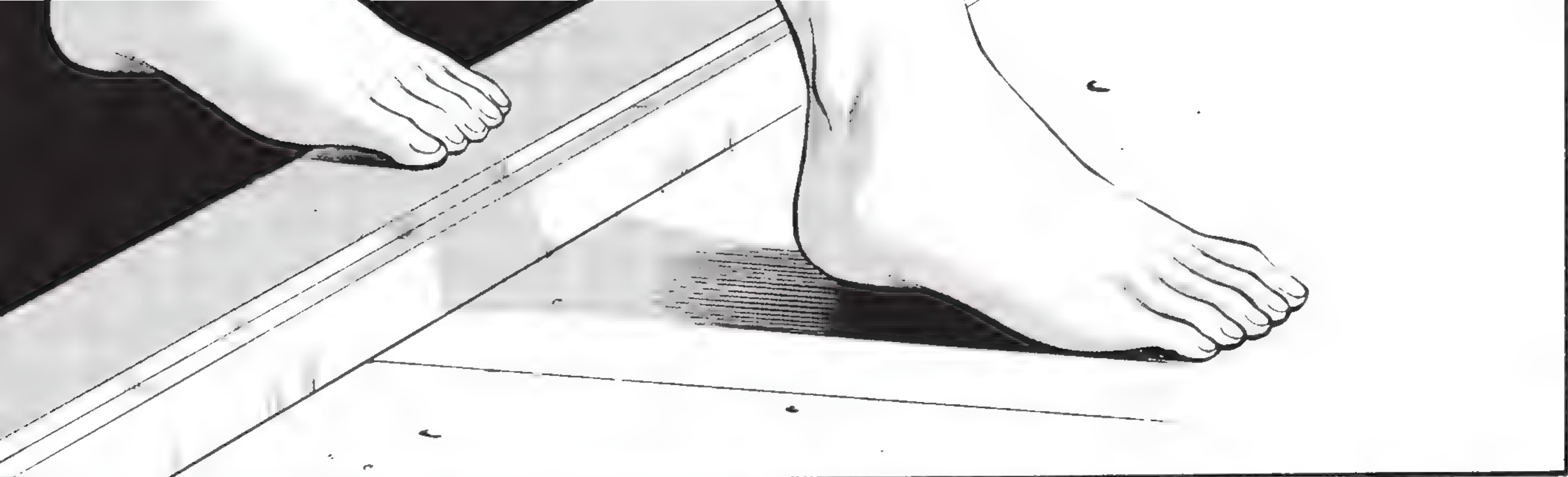
AAAH...

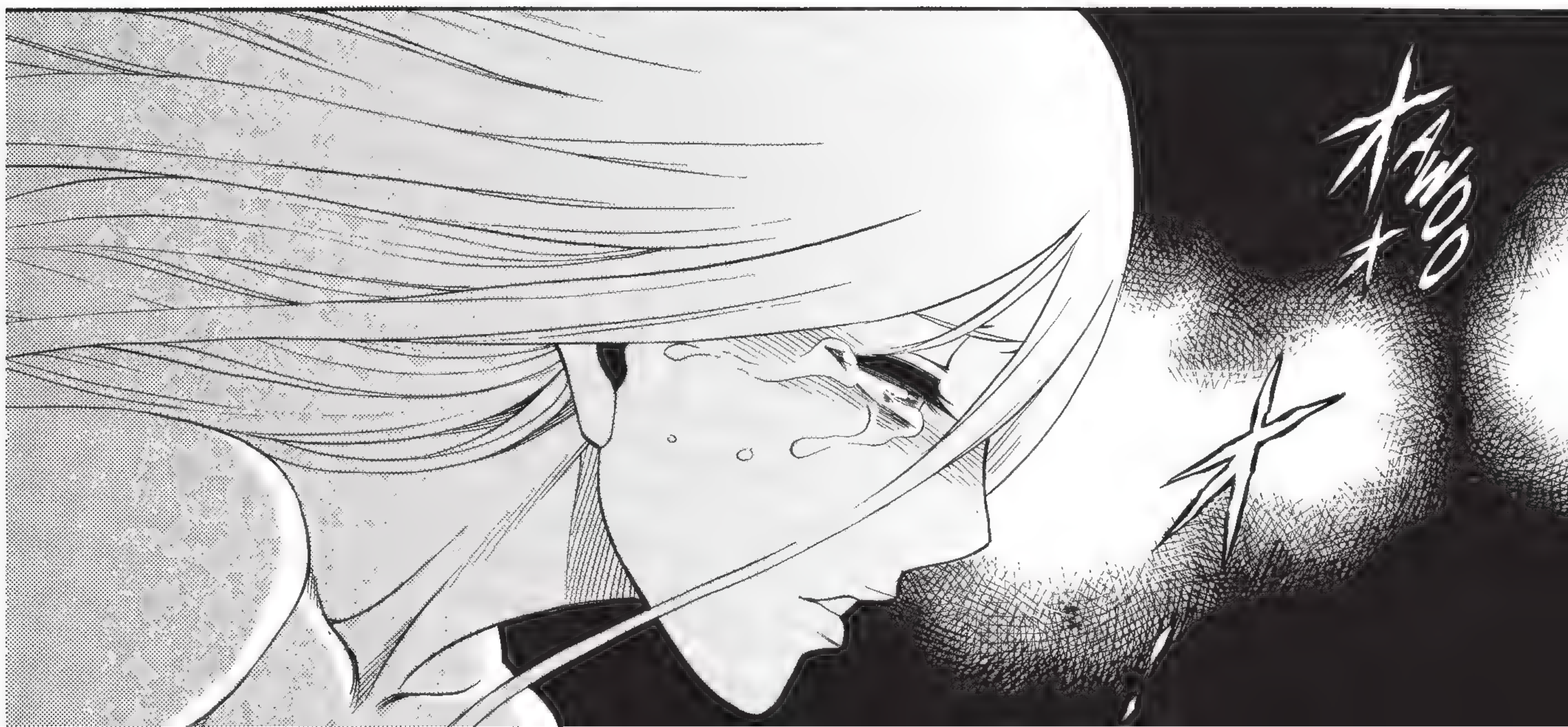
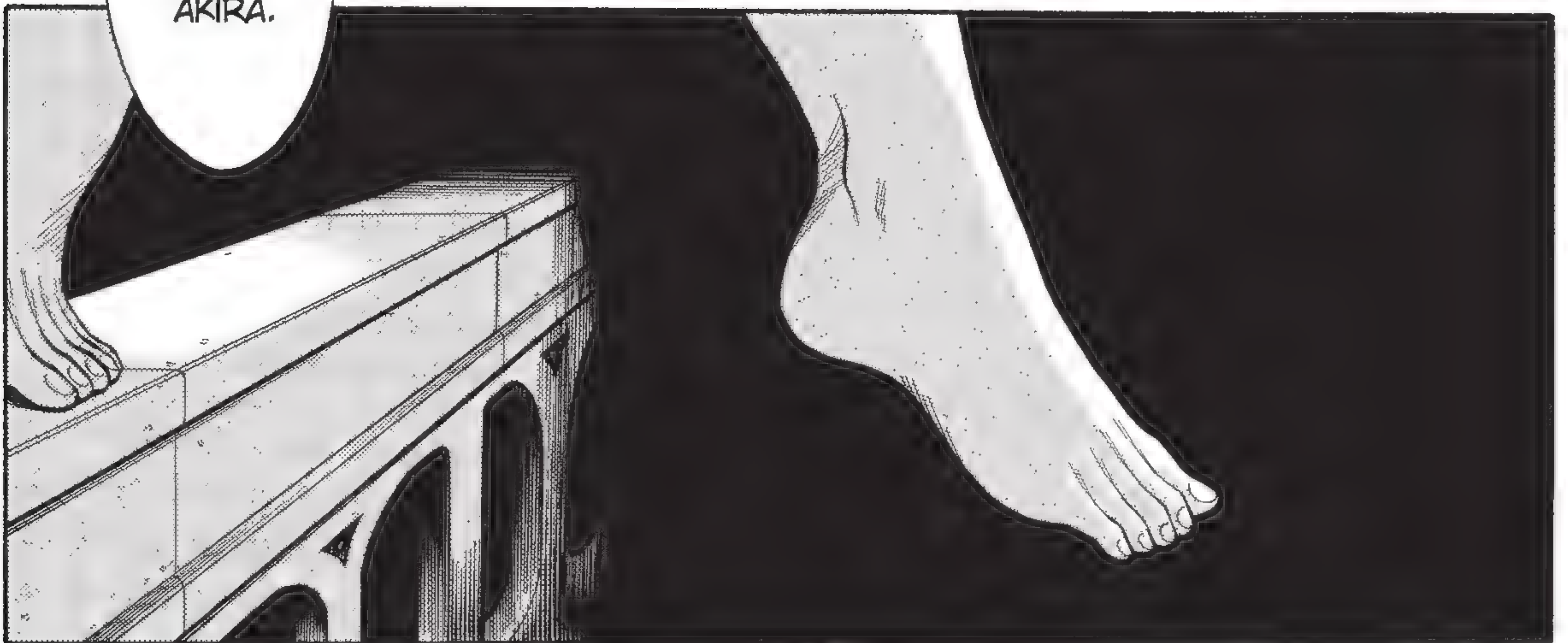
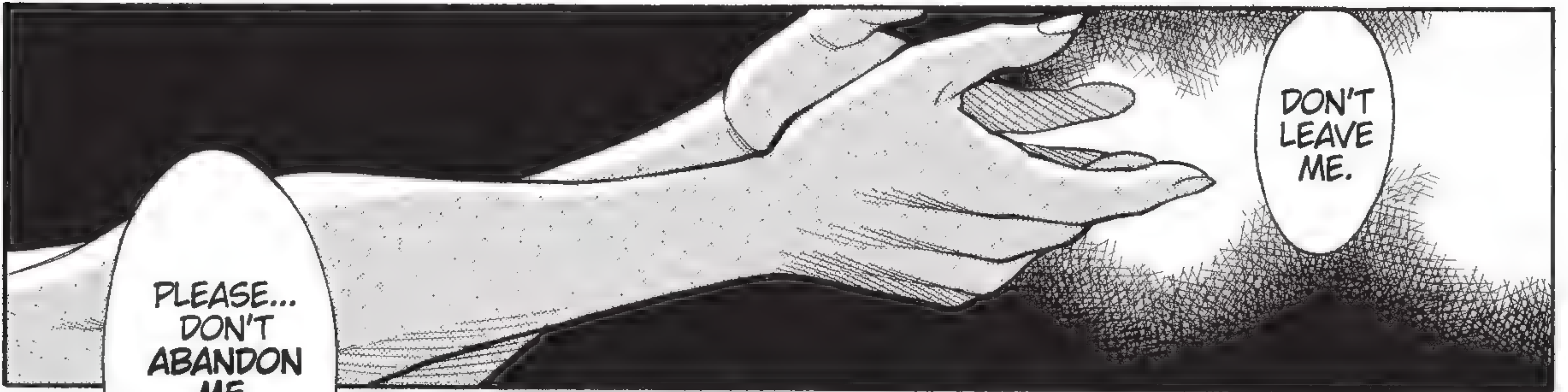




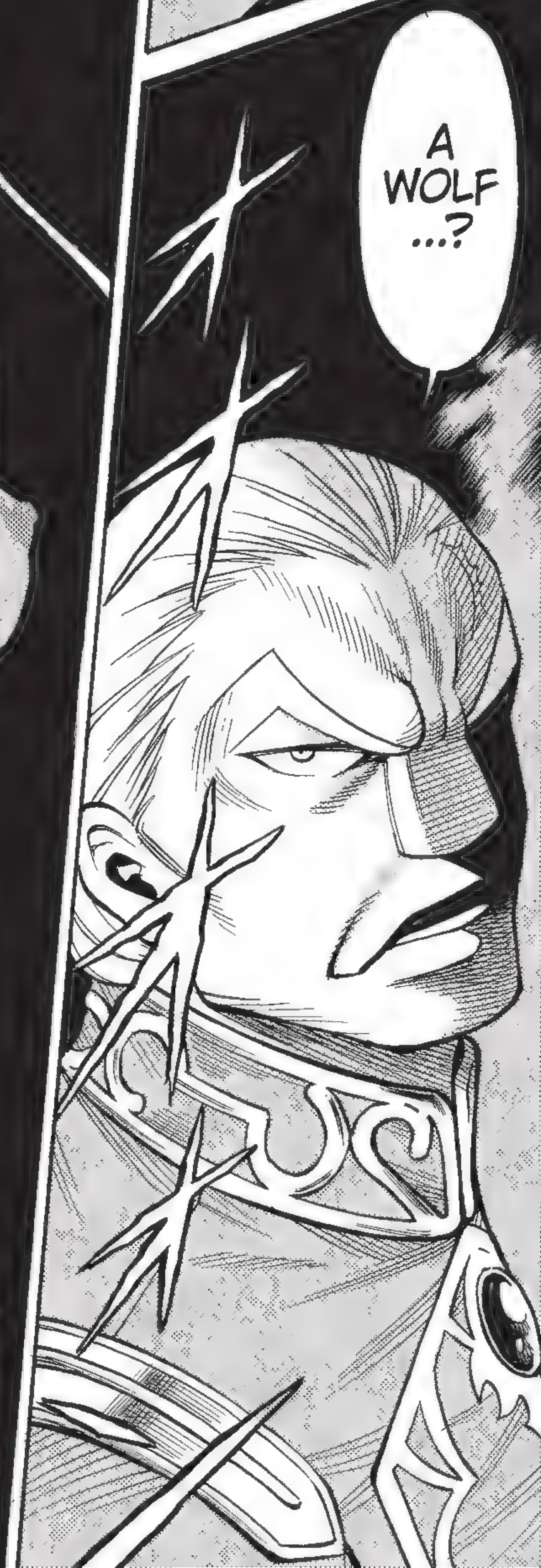
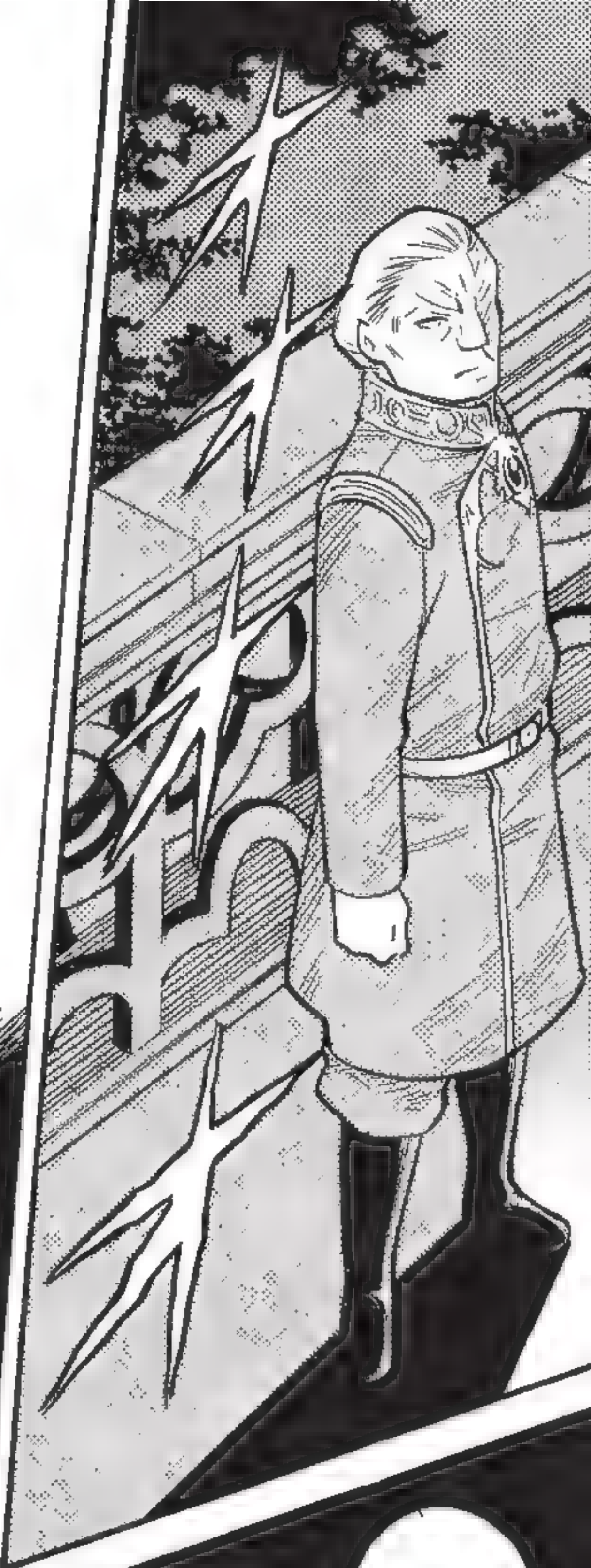
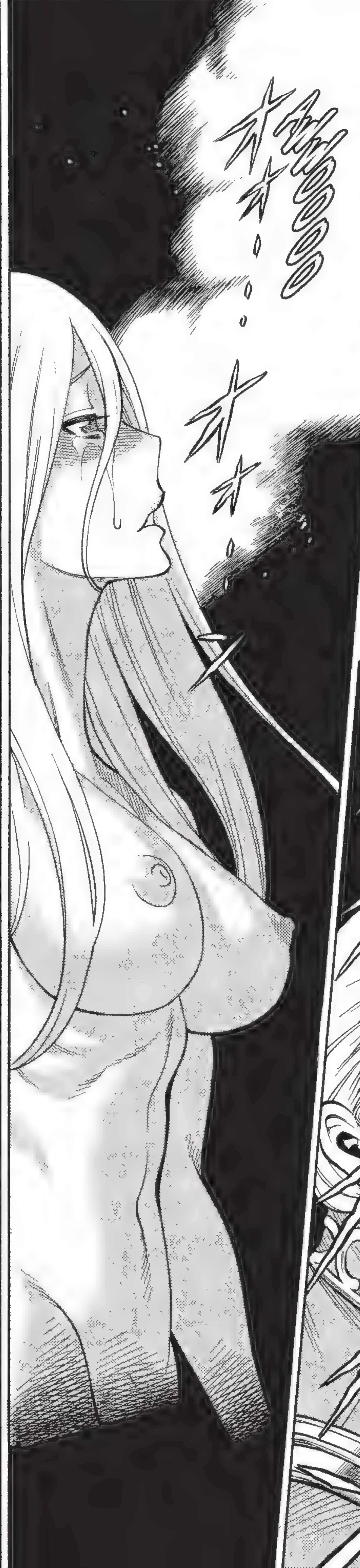
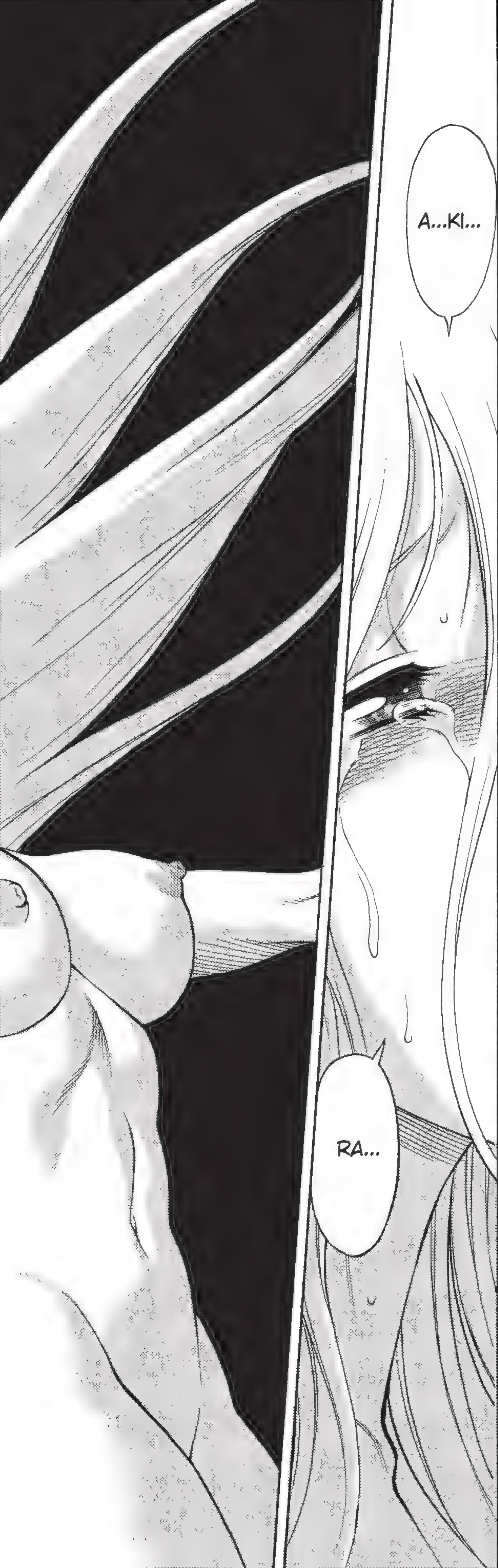




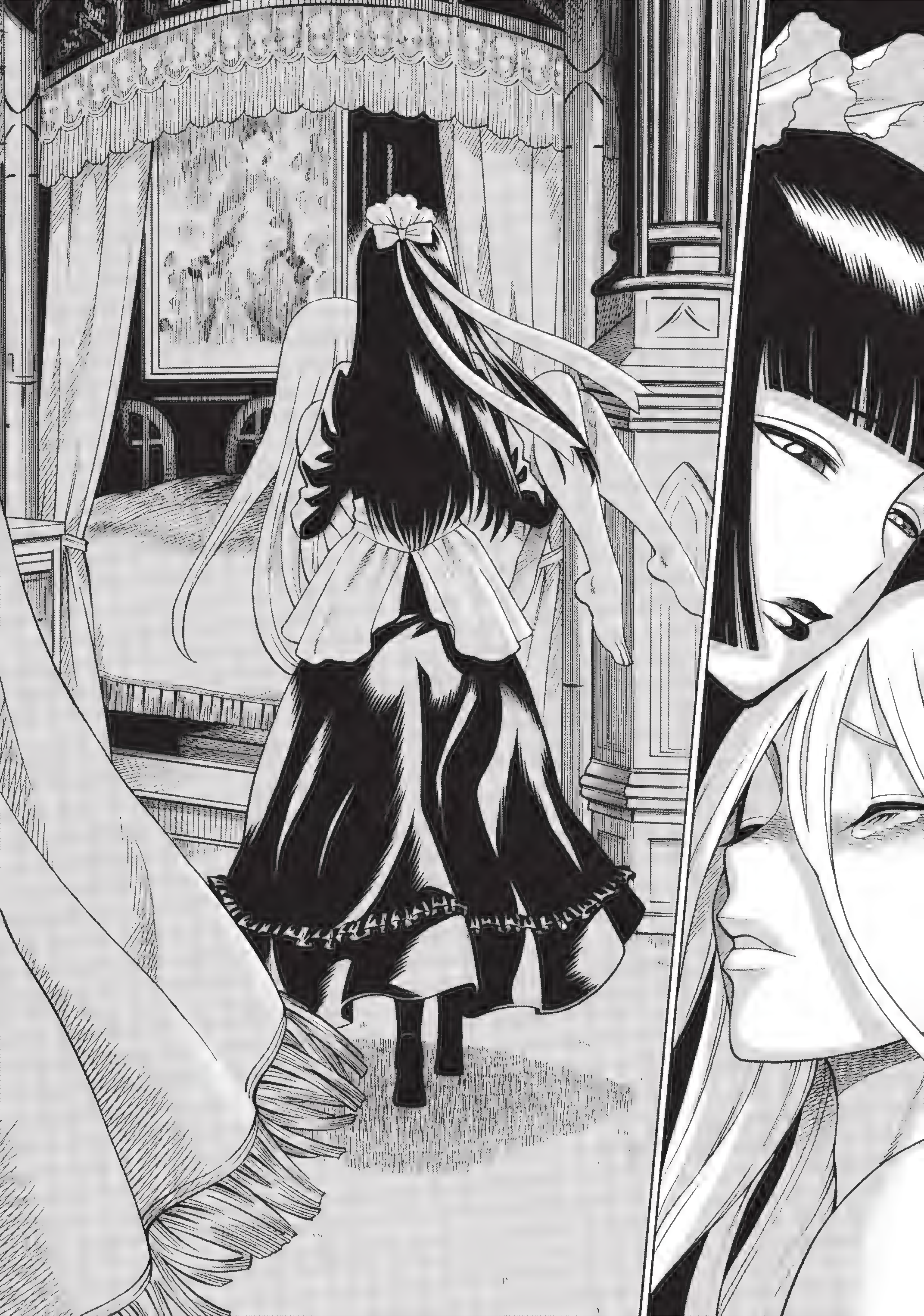




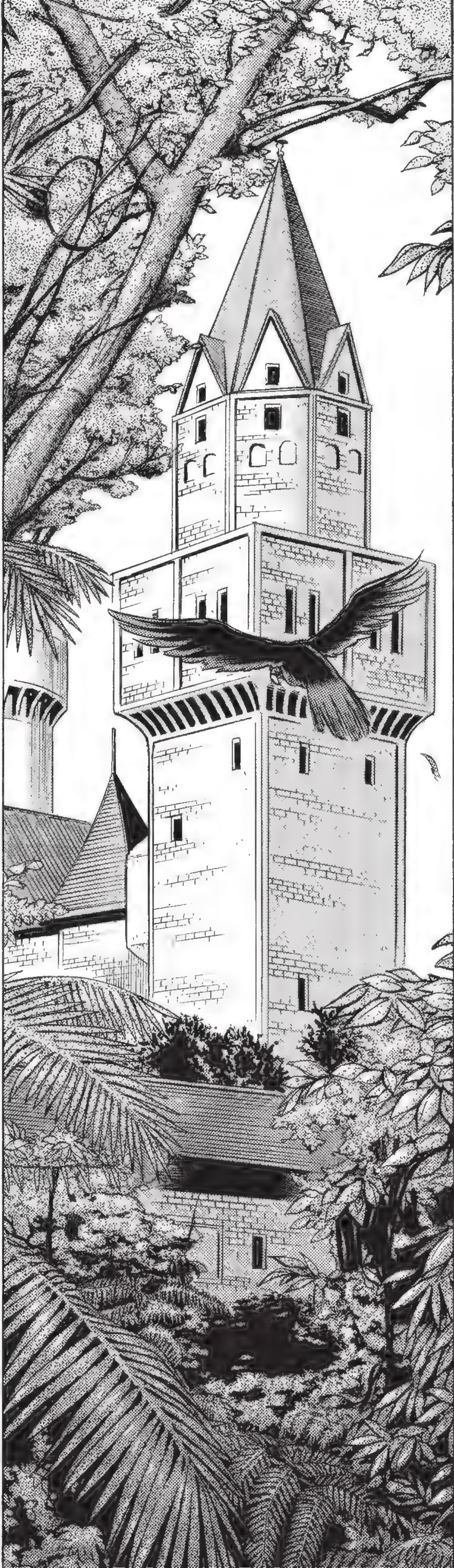


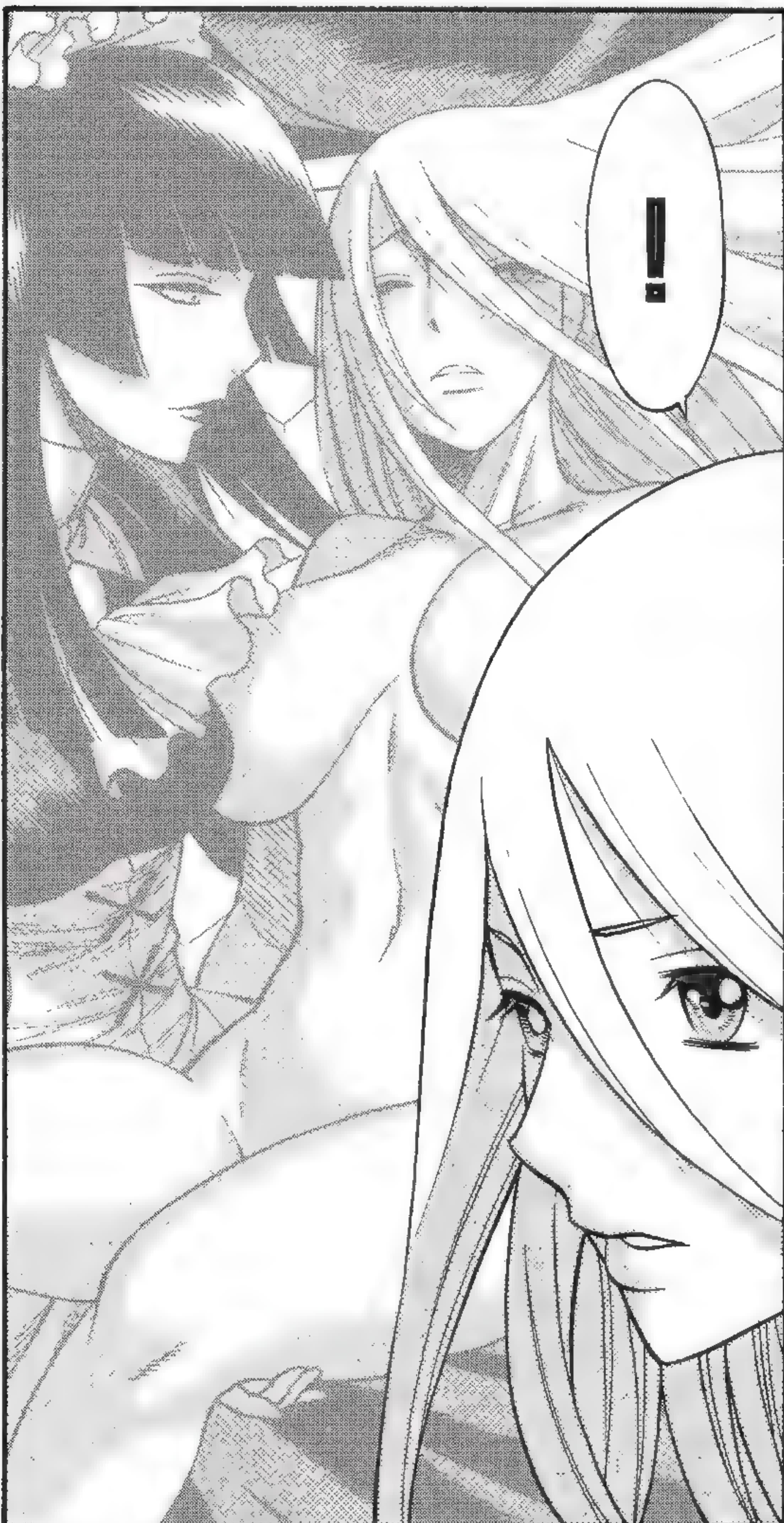






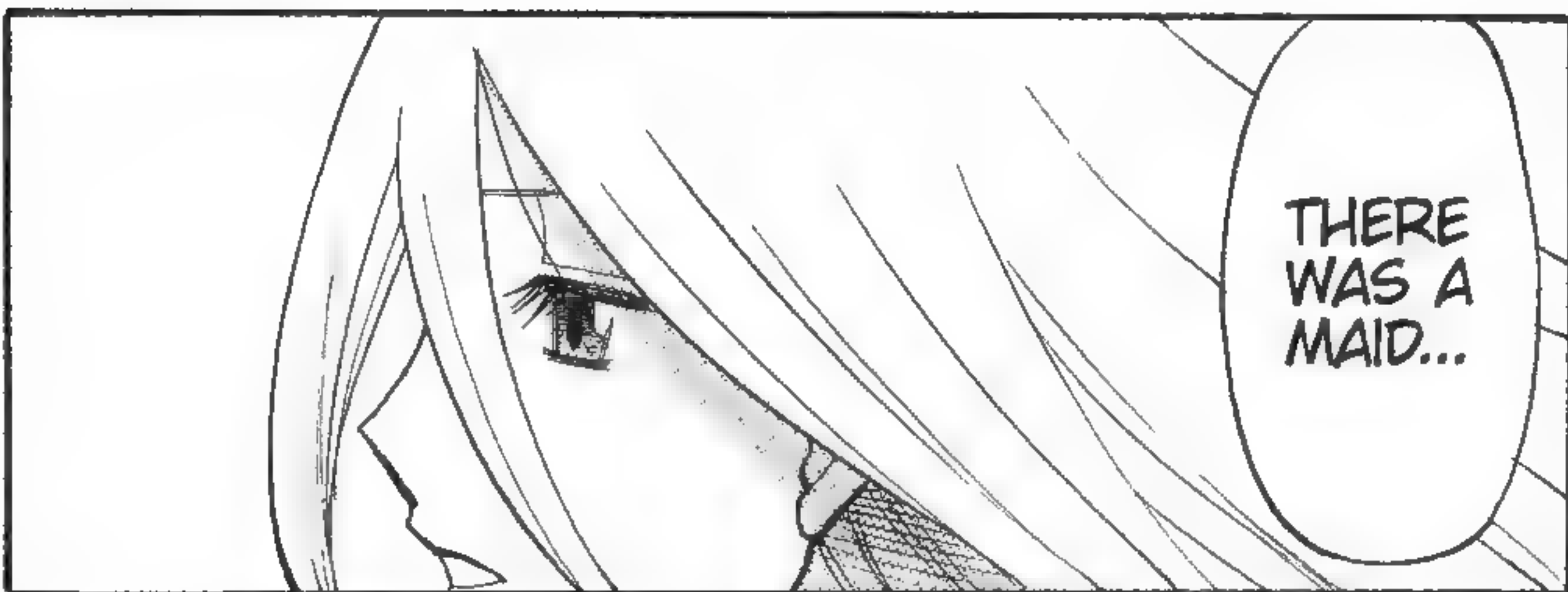
Chapter 67: Machinations



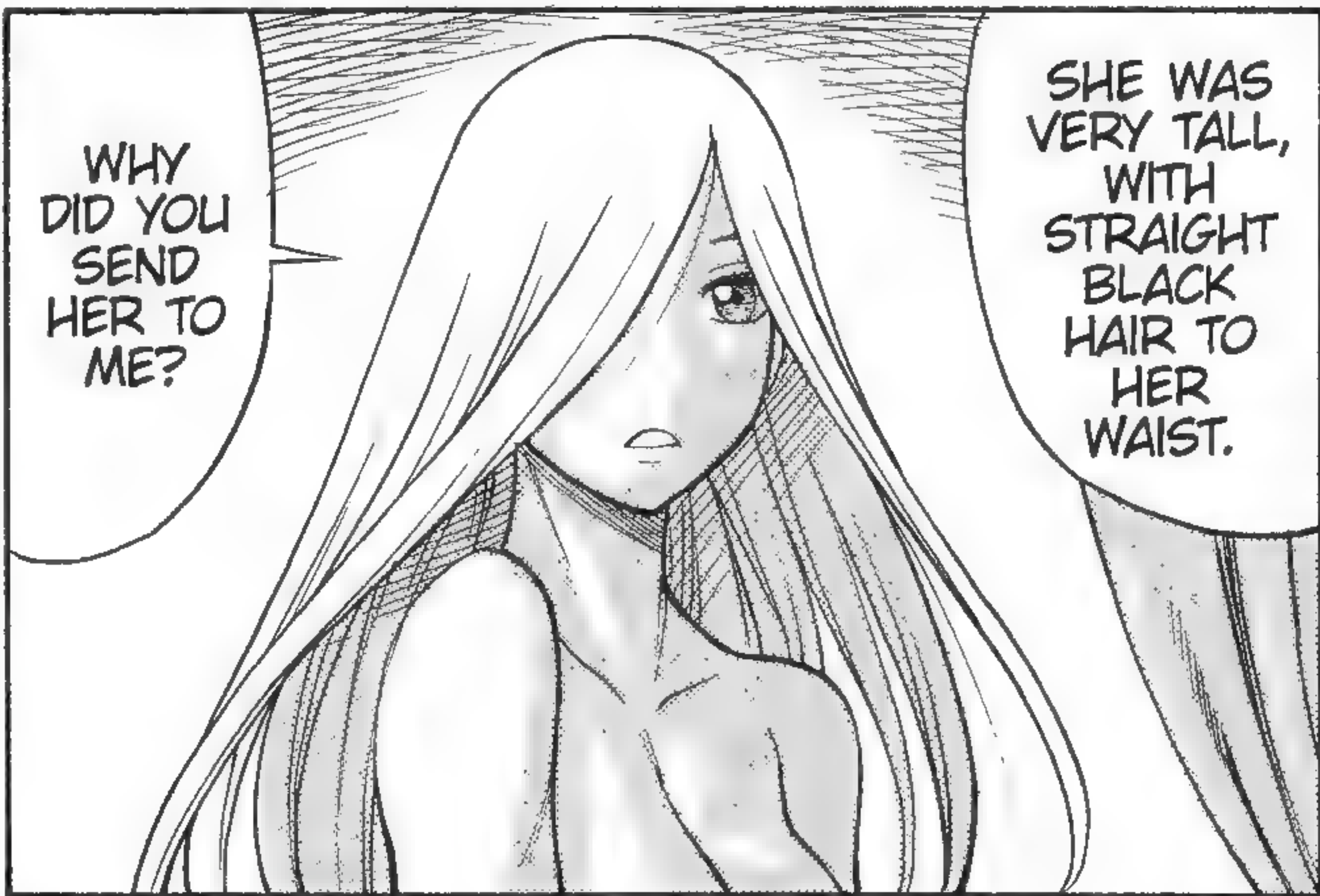




WE
DIDN'T.
THERE
IS NO
MAID
LIKE
THAT
HERE.



THERE
WAS A
MAID...



WHY
DID YOU
SEND
HER TO
ME?

SHE WAS
VERY TALL,
WITH
STRAIGHT
BLACK
HAIR TO
HER
WAIST.



BUT I AM
CERTAIN I
SAW HER
BEFORE I
FELL
ASLEEP...

WHAT
...?



IF YOU
TRULY
DESIRE
SOMEONE
TO TAKE
CARE OF
YOUR DAILY
NEEDS THAT
BADLY, THEN
WE CAN
PROVIDE
YOU WITH
SOME
ASSIST-
ANCE.

ENTER!

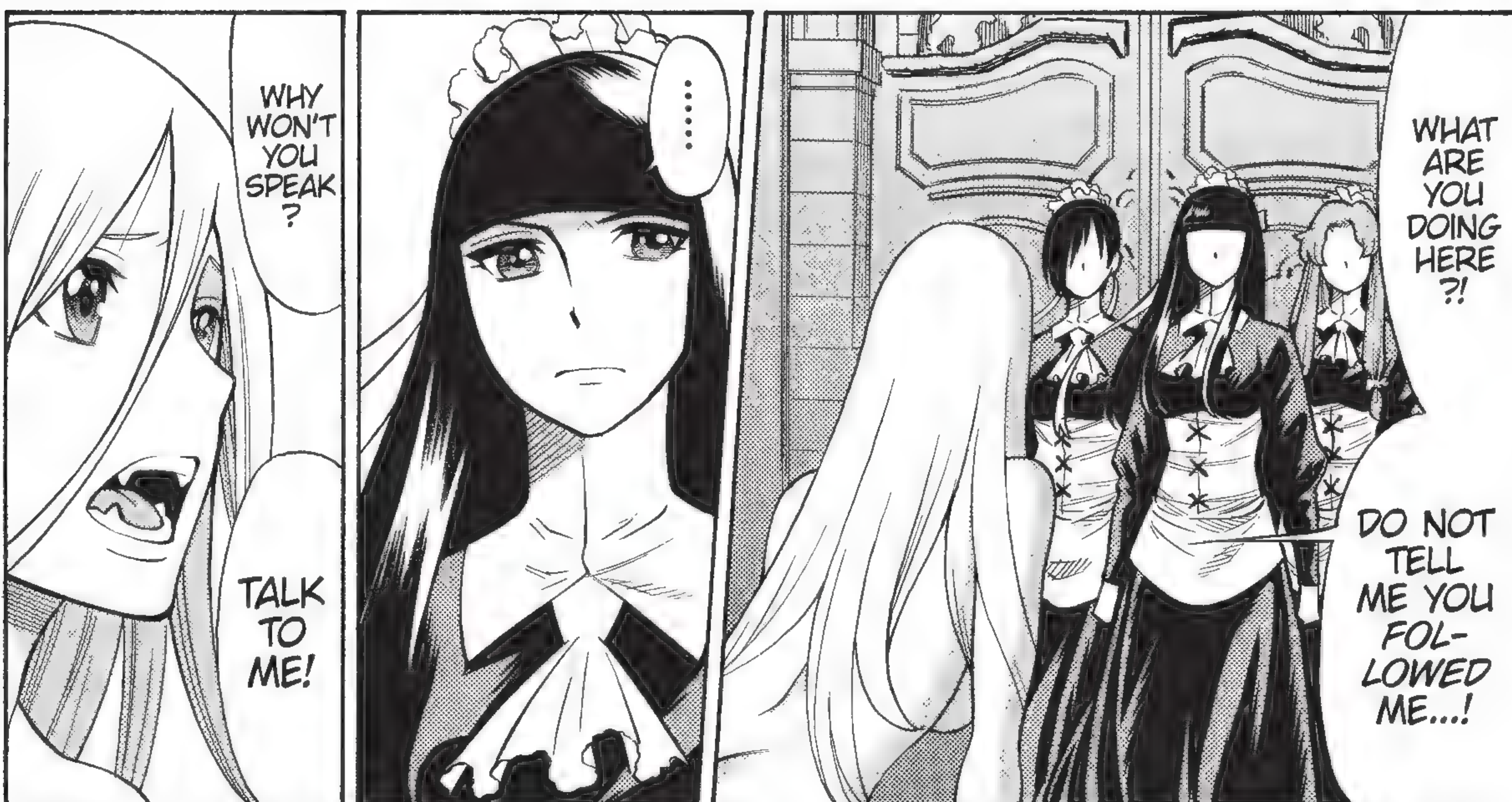
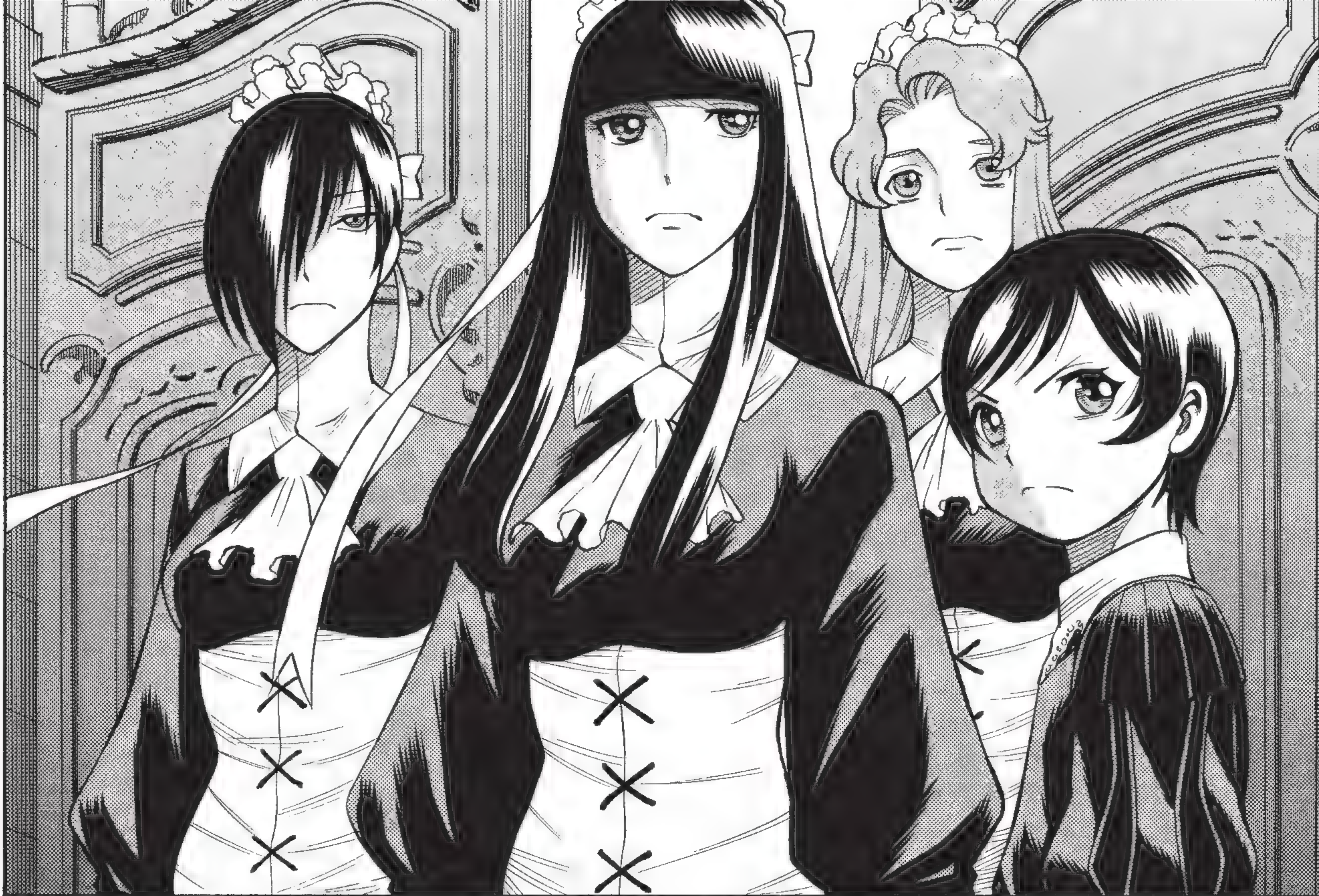


...

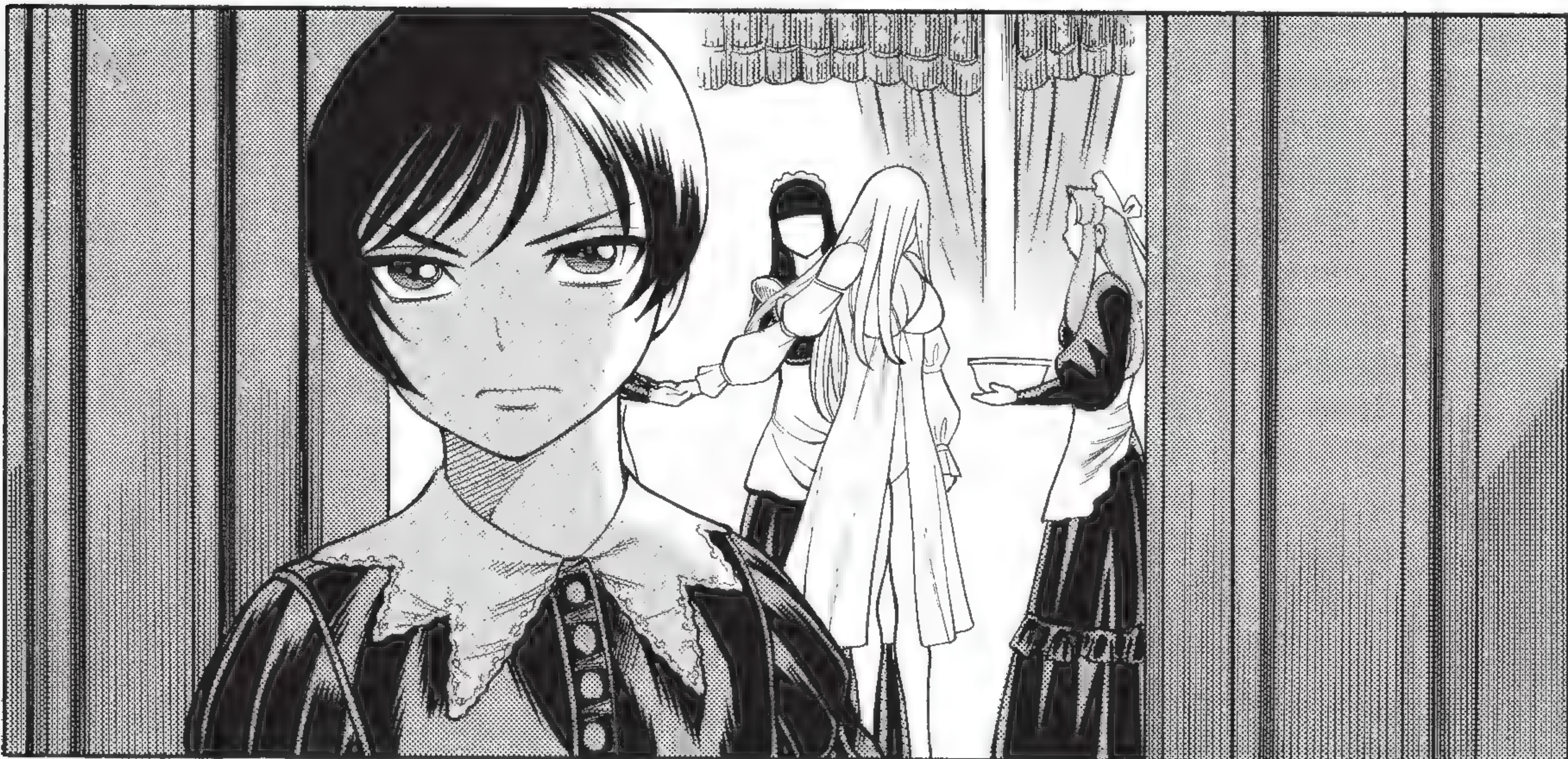
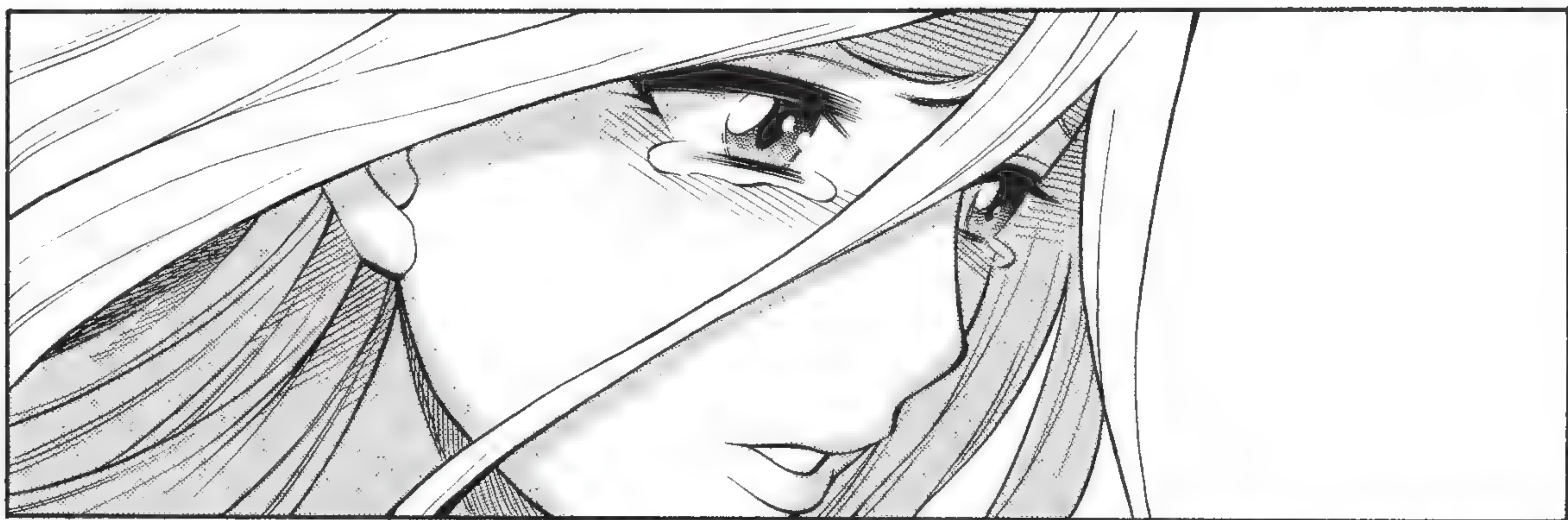
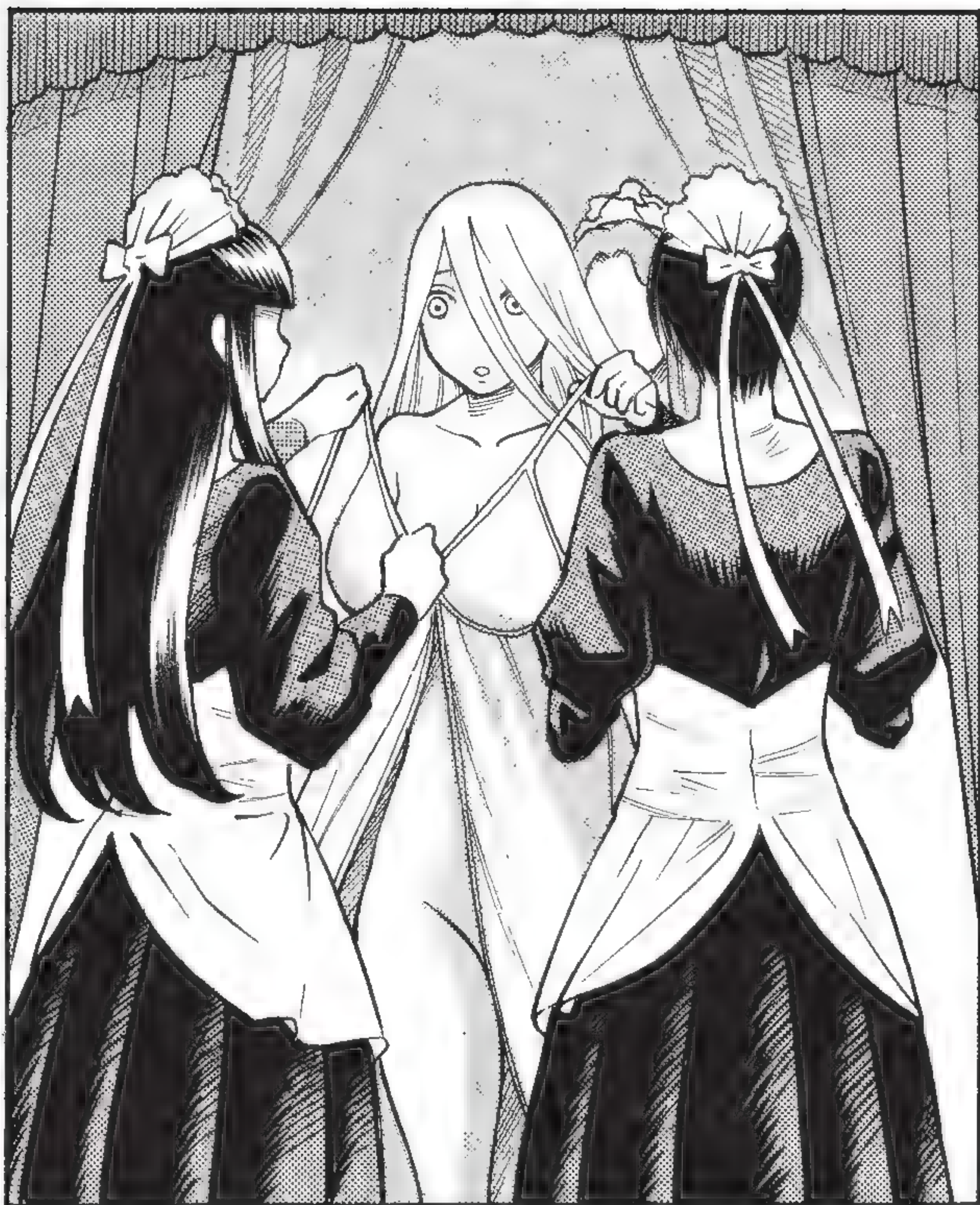
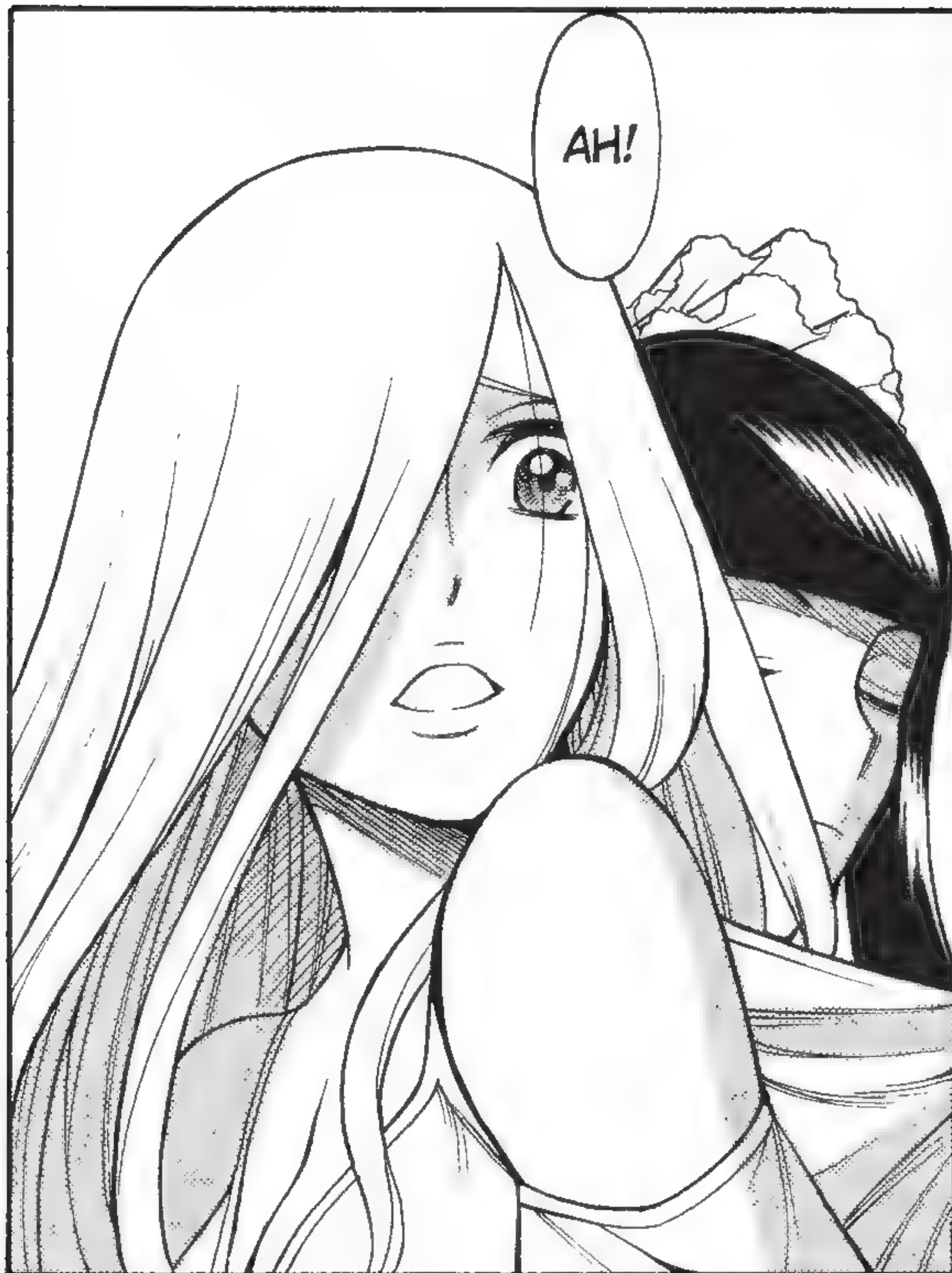


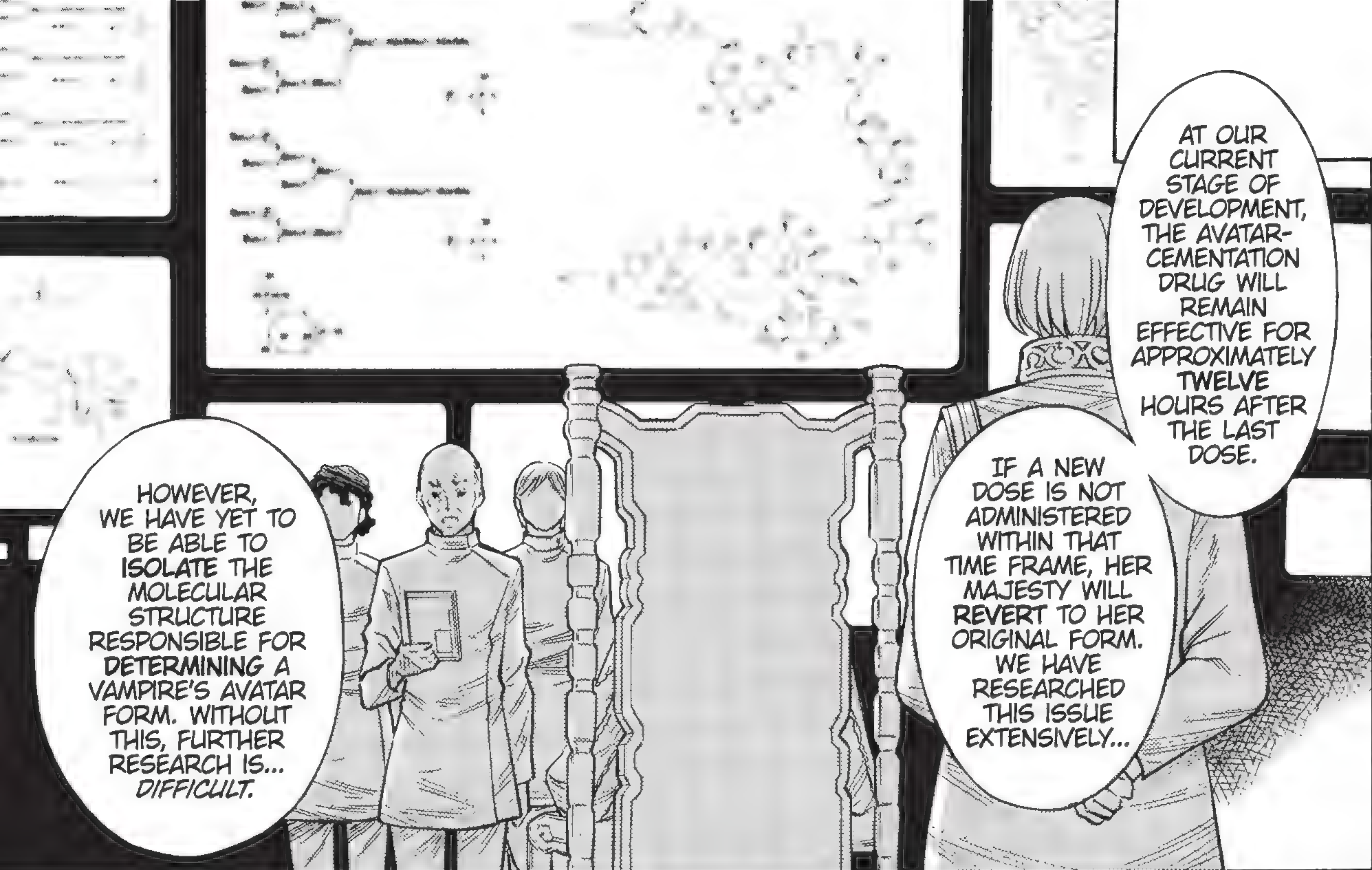
NO ONE
HAS COME
TO THIS
ROOM SINCE
MY LORD
AND I
LEFT HERE,
TWO DAYS
AGO.

MAYBE
YOU
WERE
JUST
DREAM-
ING.





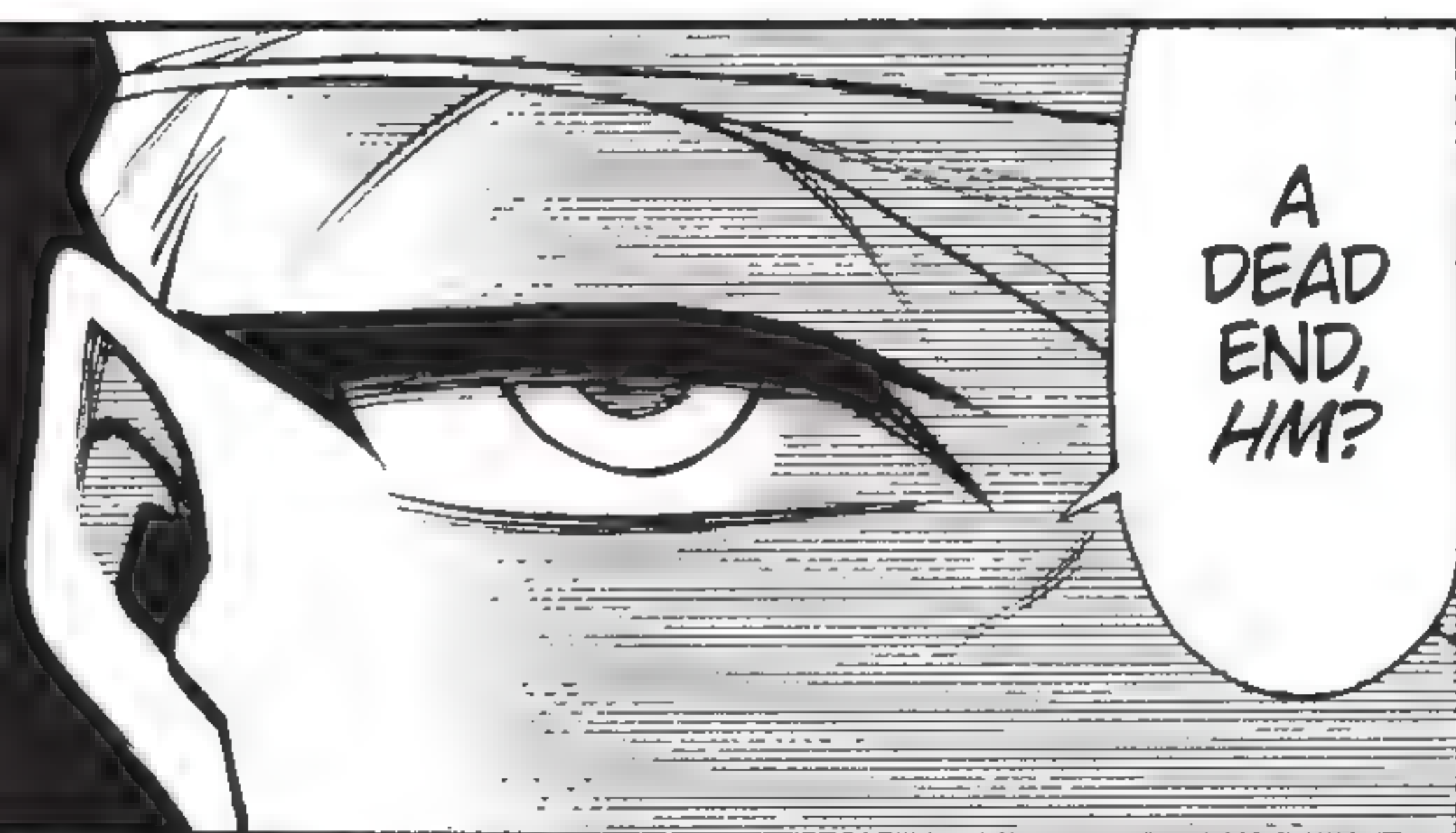




HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO BE ABLE TO ISOLATE THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING A VAMPIRE'S AVATAR FORM. WITHOUT THIS, FURTHER RESEARCH IS... DIFFICULT.

AT OUR CURRENT STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT, THE AVATAR-CEMENTATION DRUG WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE FOR APPROXIMATELY TWELVE HOURS AFTER THE LAST DOSE.

IF A NEW DOSE IS NOT ADMINISTERED WITHIN THAT TIME FRAME, HER MAJESTY WILL REVERT TO HER ORIGINAL FORM. WE HAVE RESEARCHED THIS ISSUE EXTENSIVELY...



A DEAD END, HM?

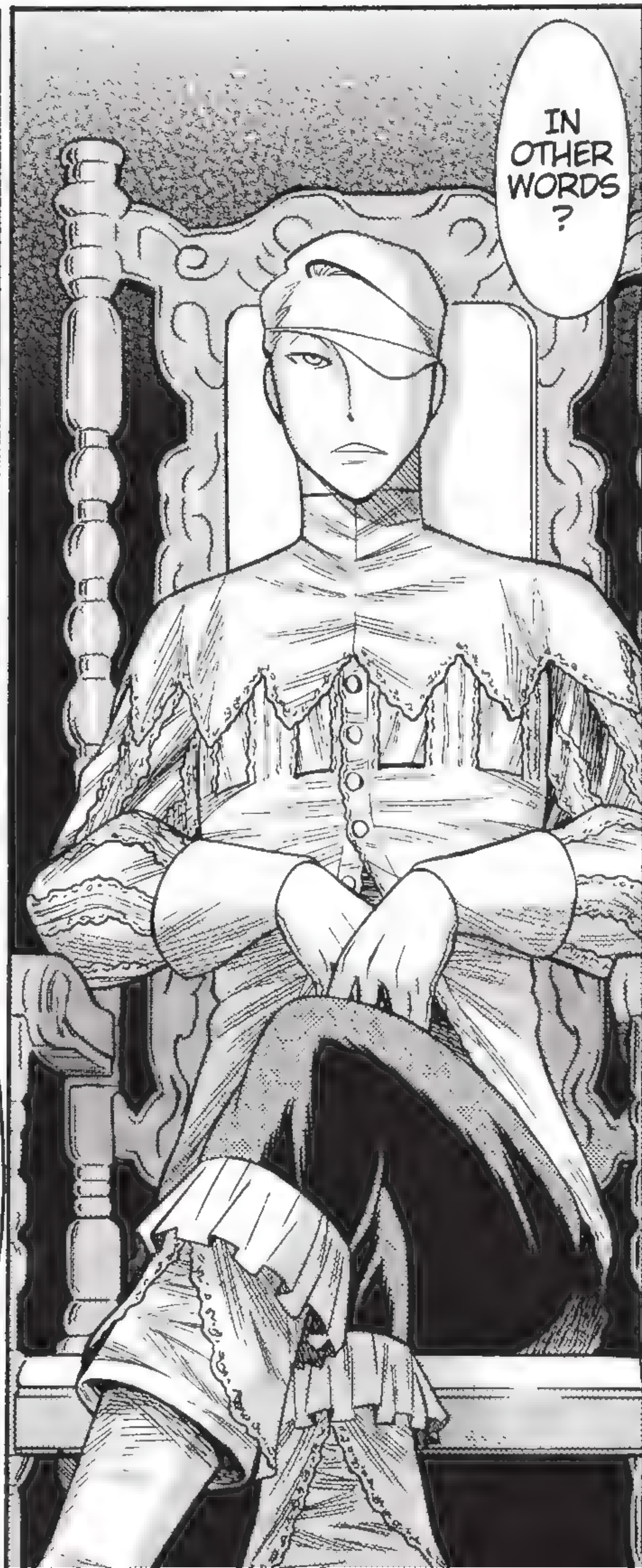


HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I HEARD THAT PHRASE FROM YOU? I HAVE CEASED COUNTING.

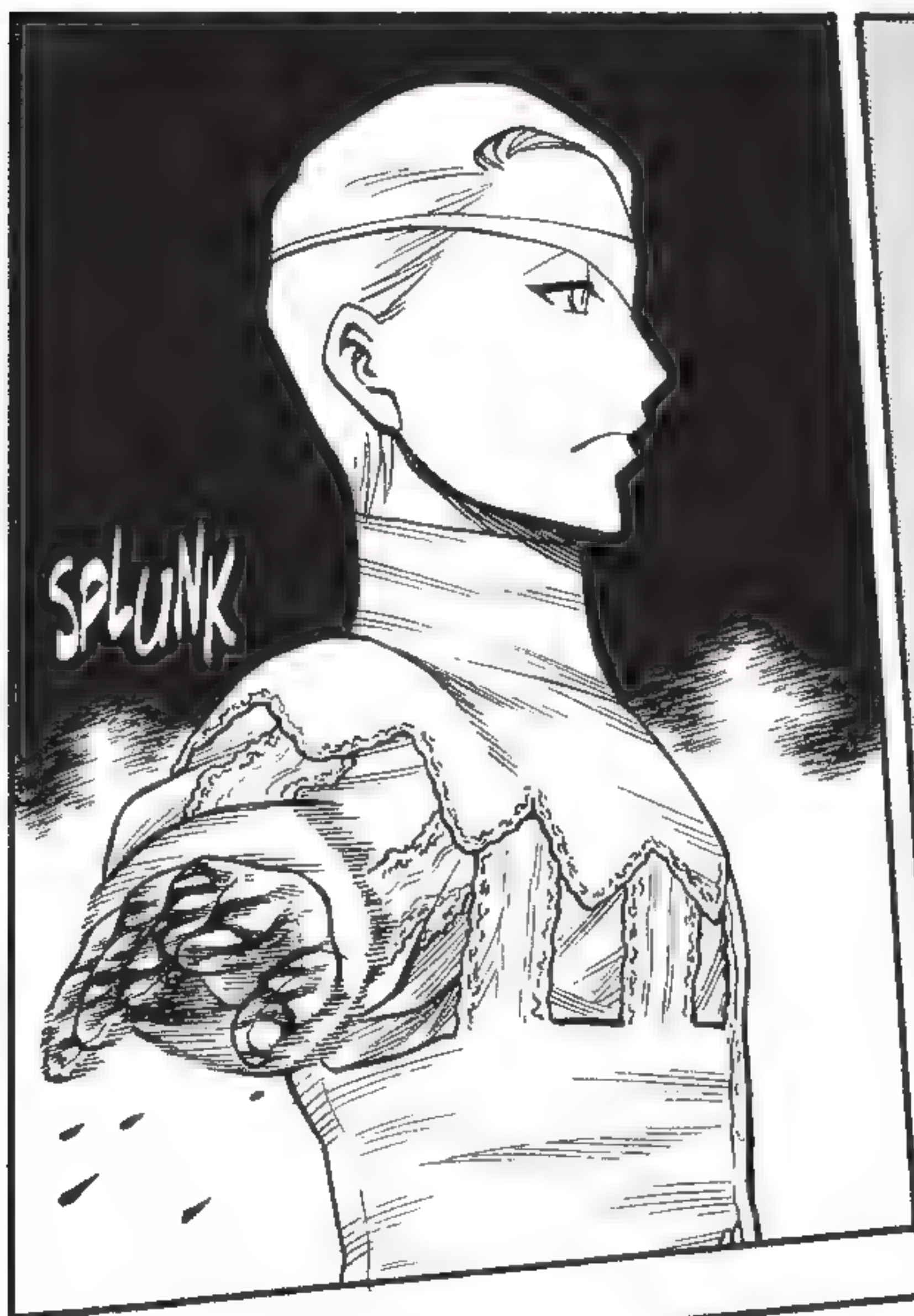


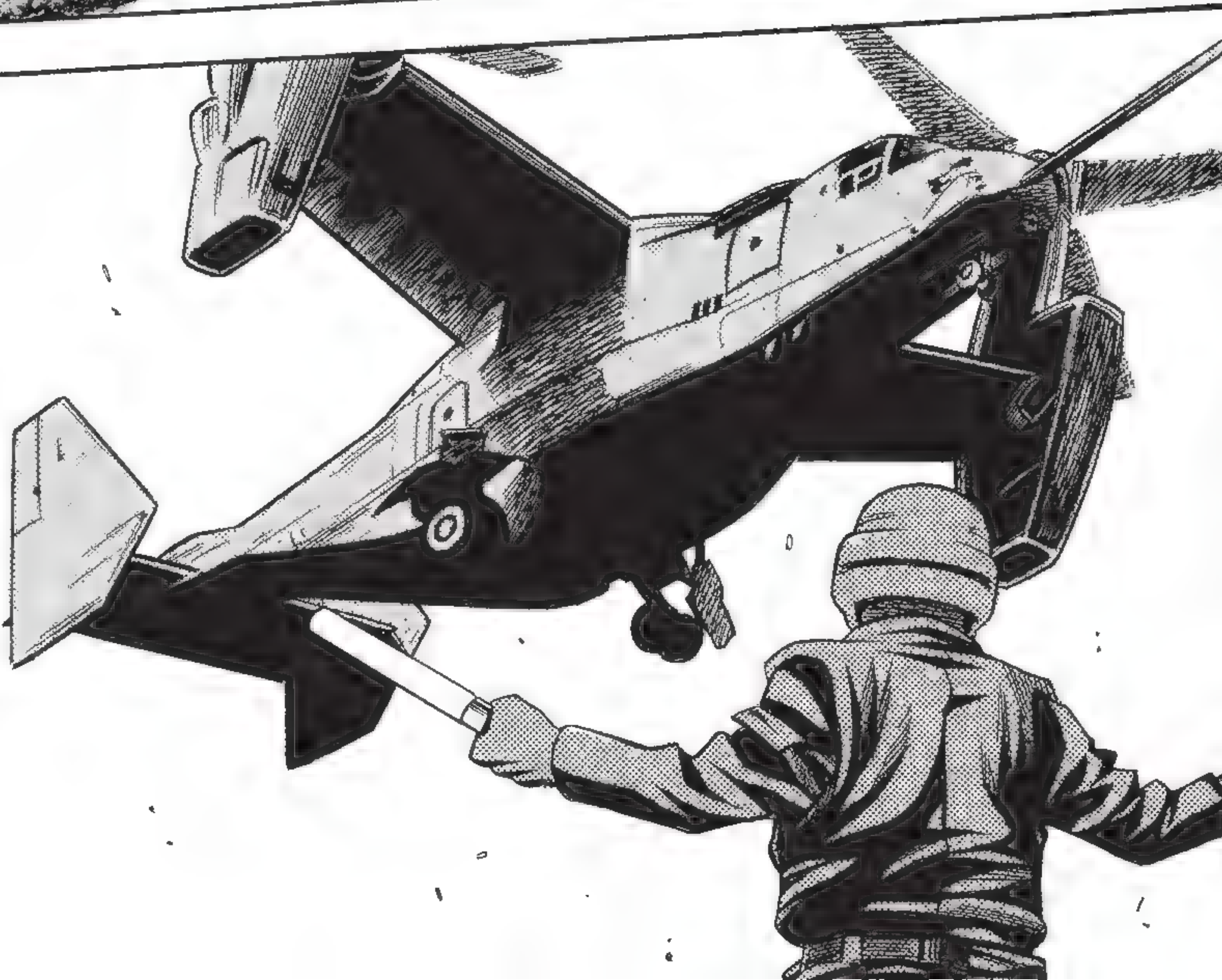
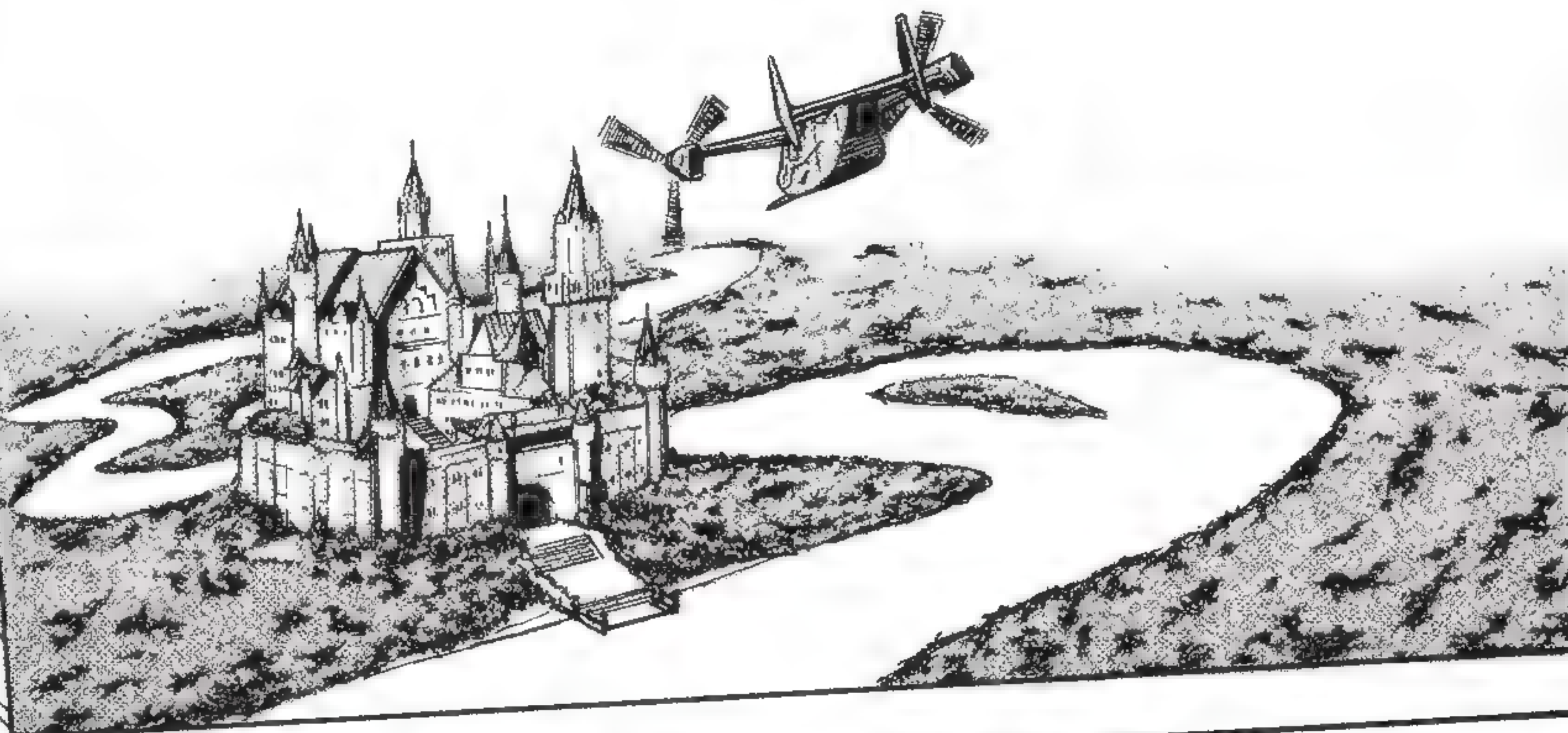
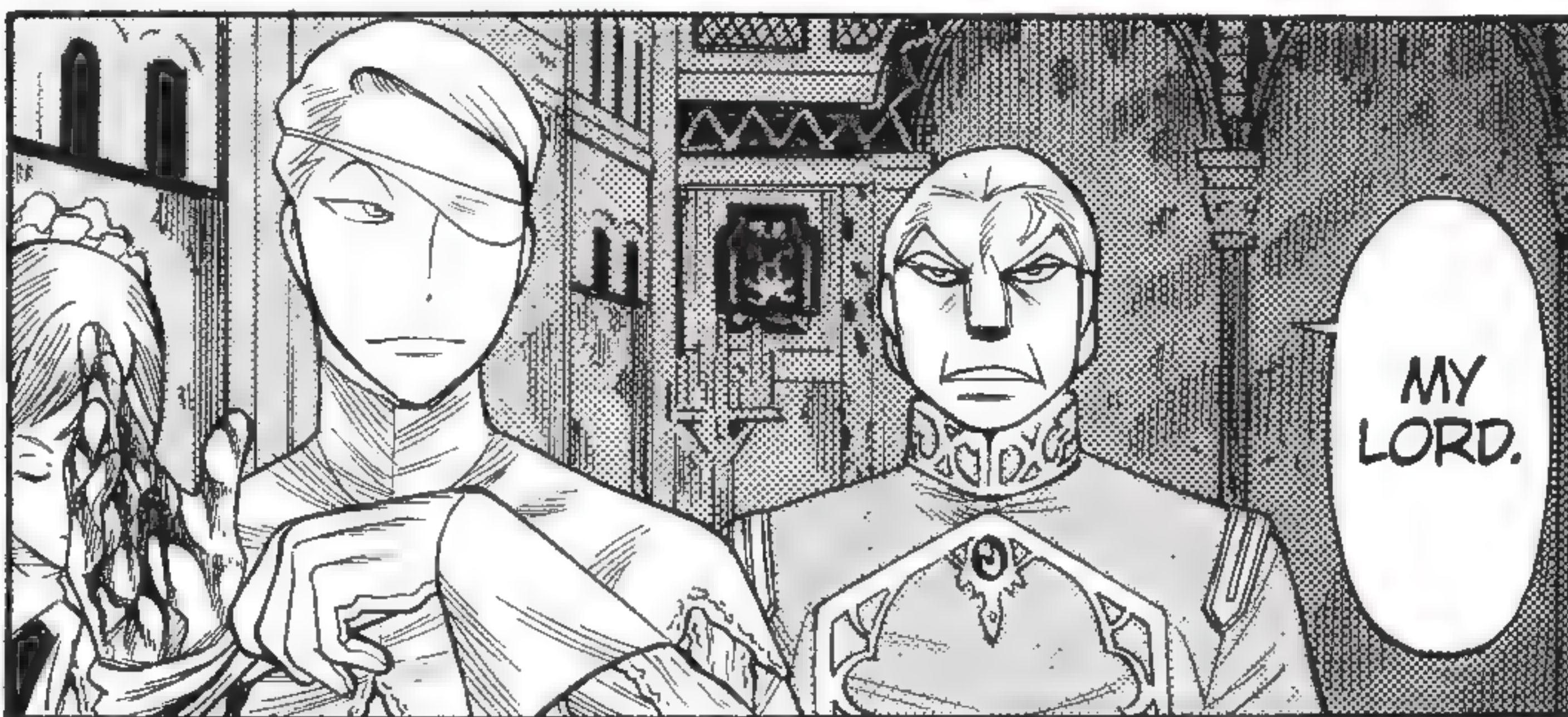
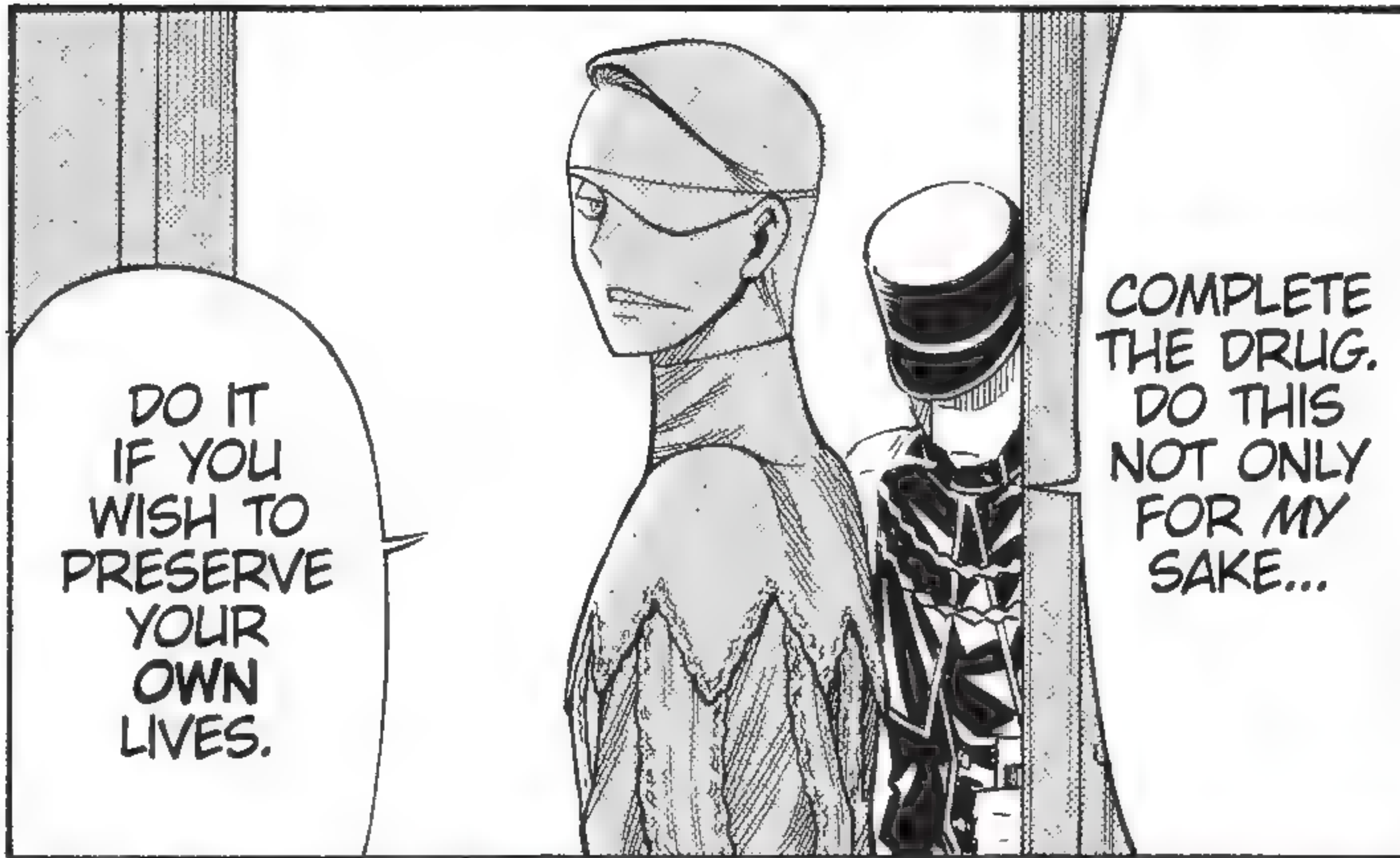
WE DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH DATA.

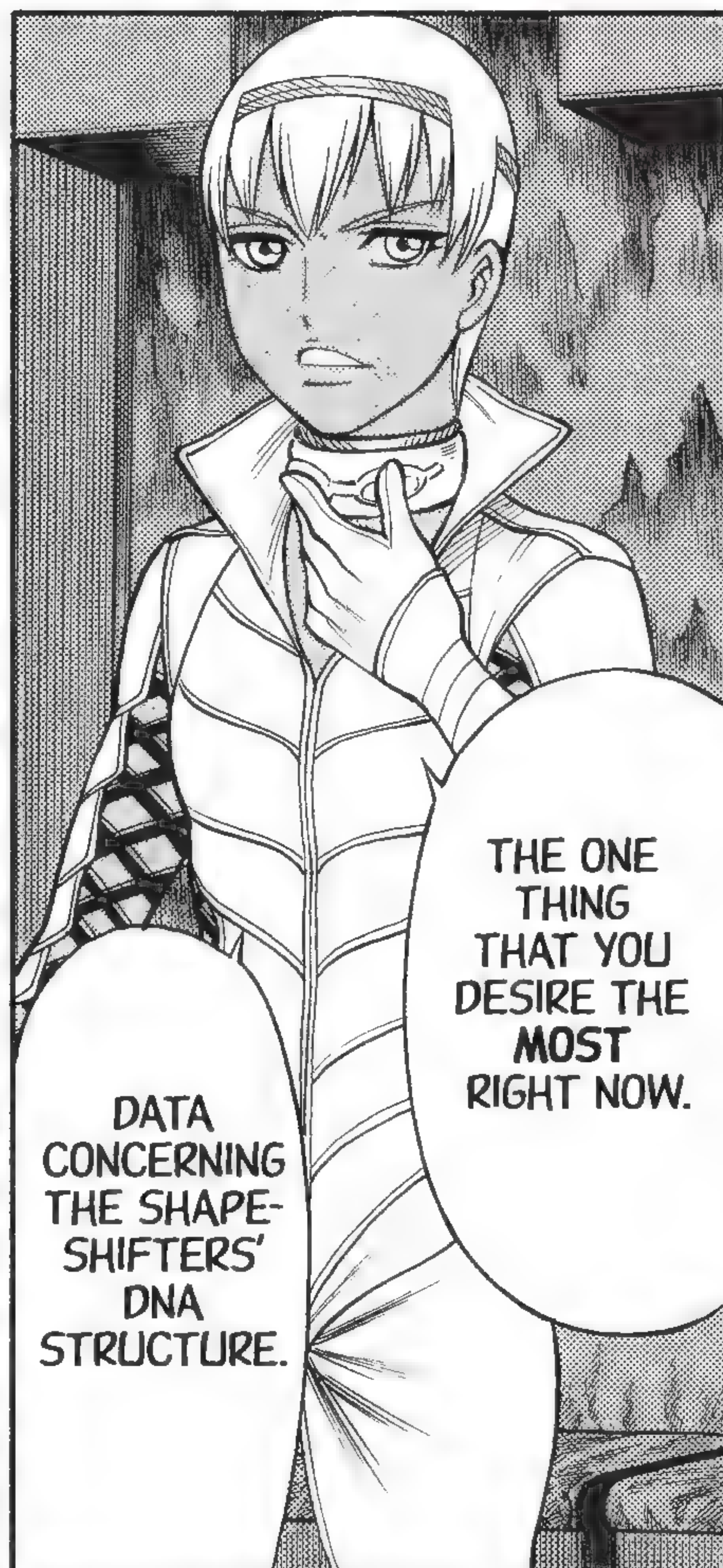
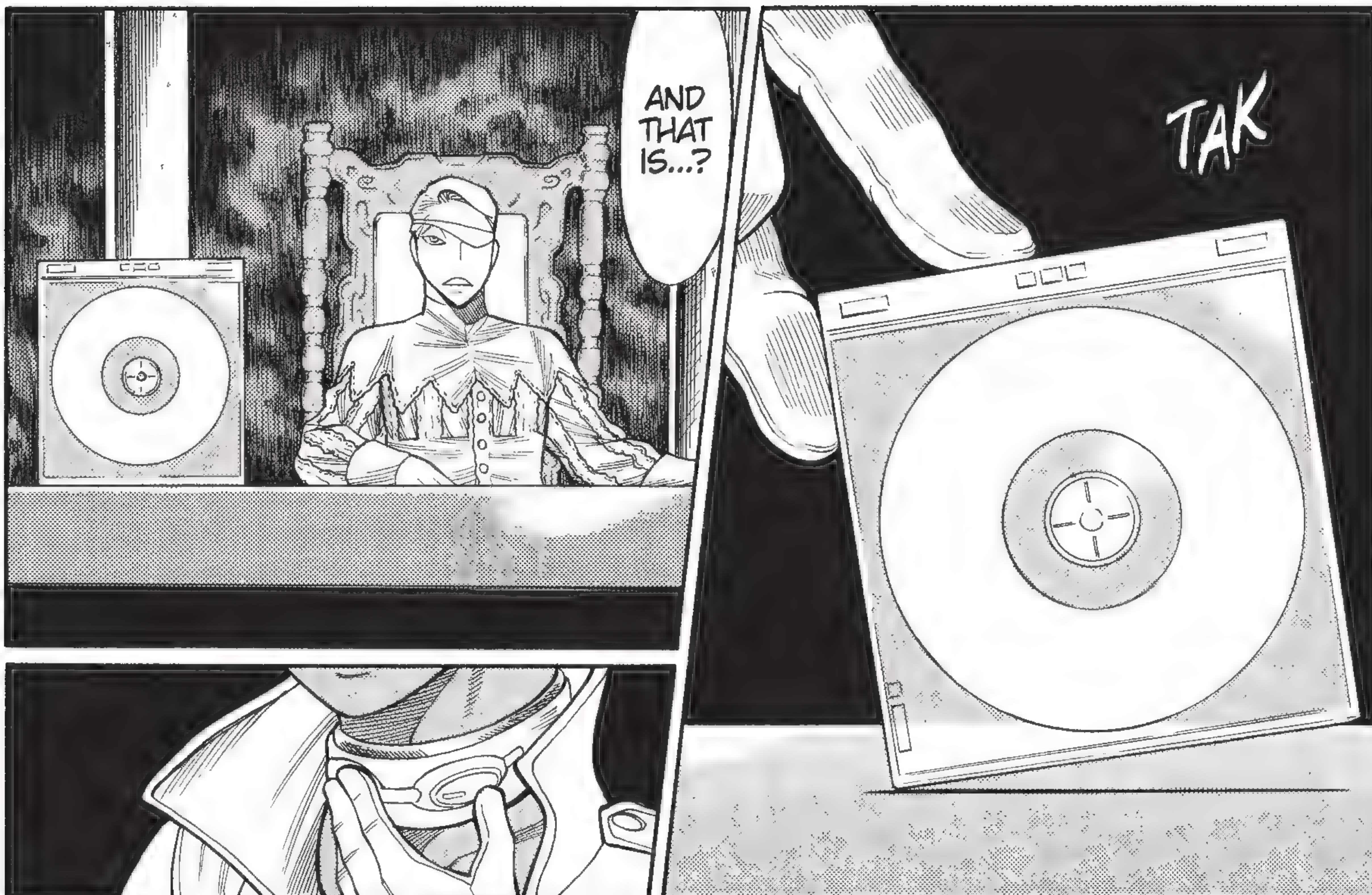
OUR RESEARCH SEEMS TO BE HEADED FOR A, ER... DEAD END, MY LORD.

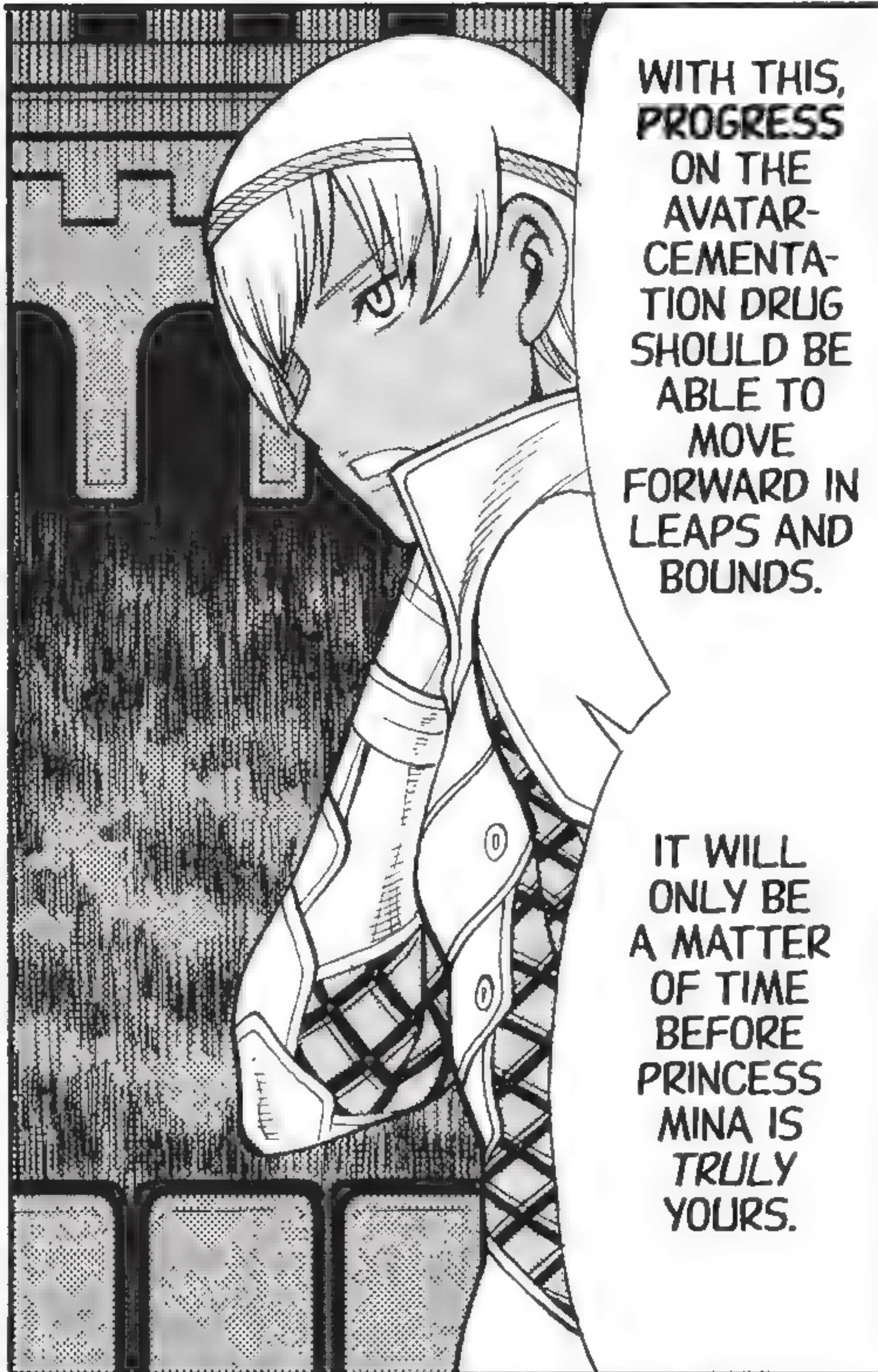
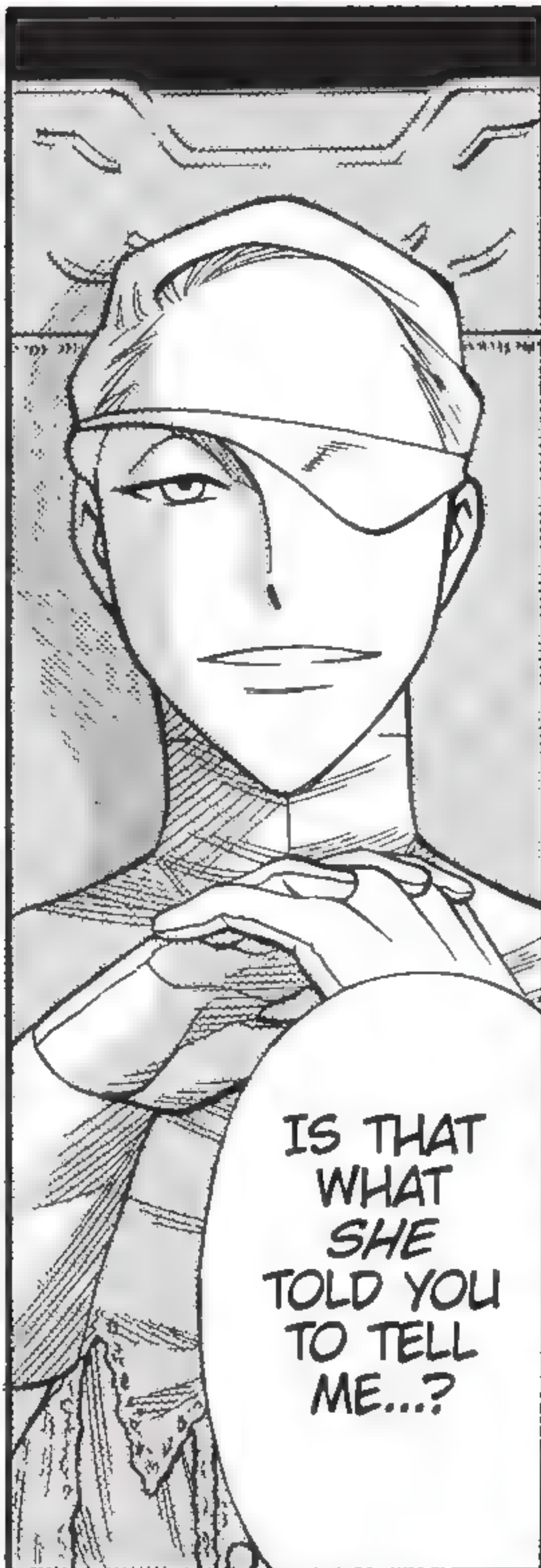
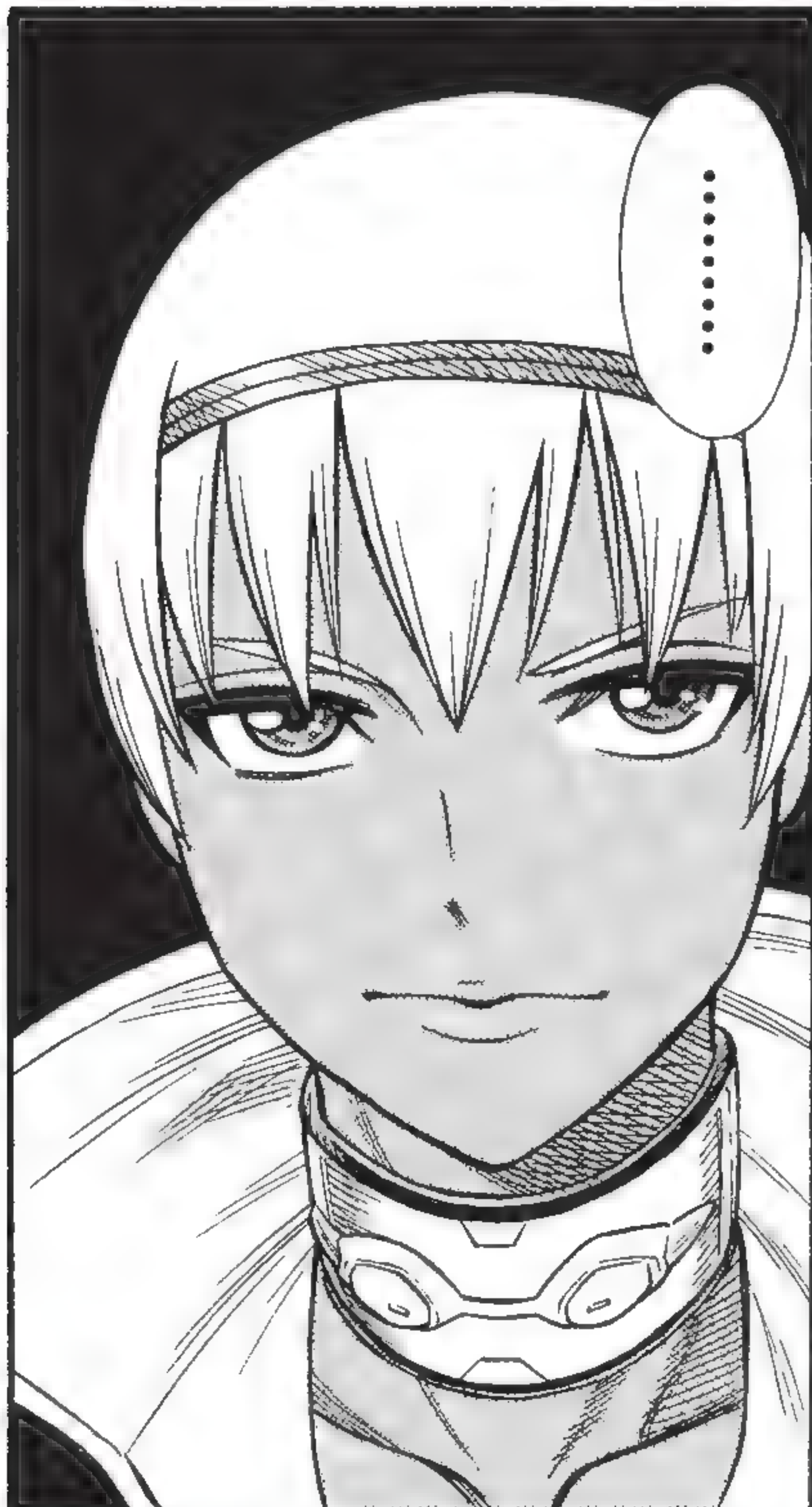


IN OTHER WORDS?



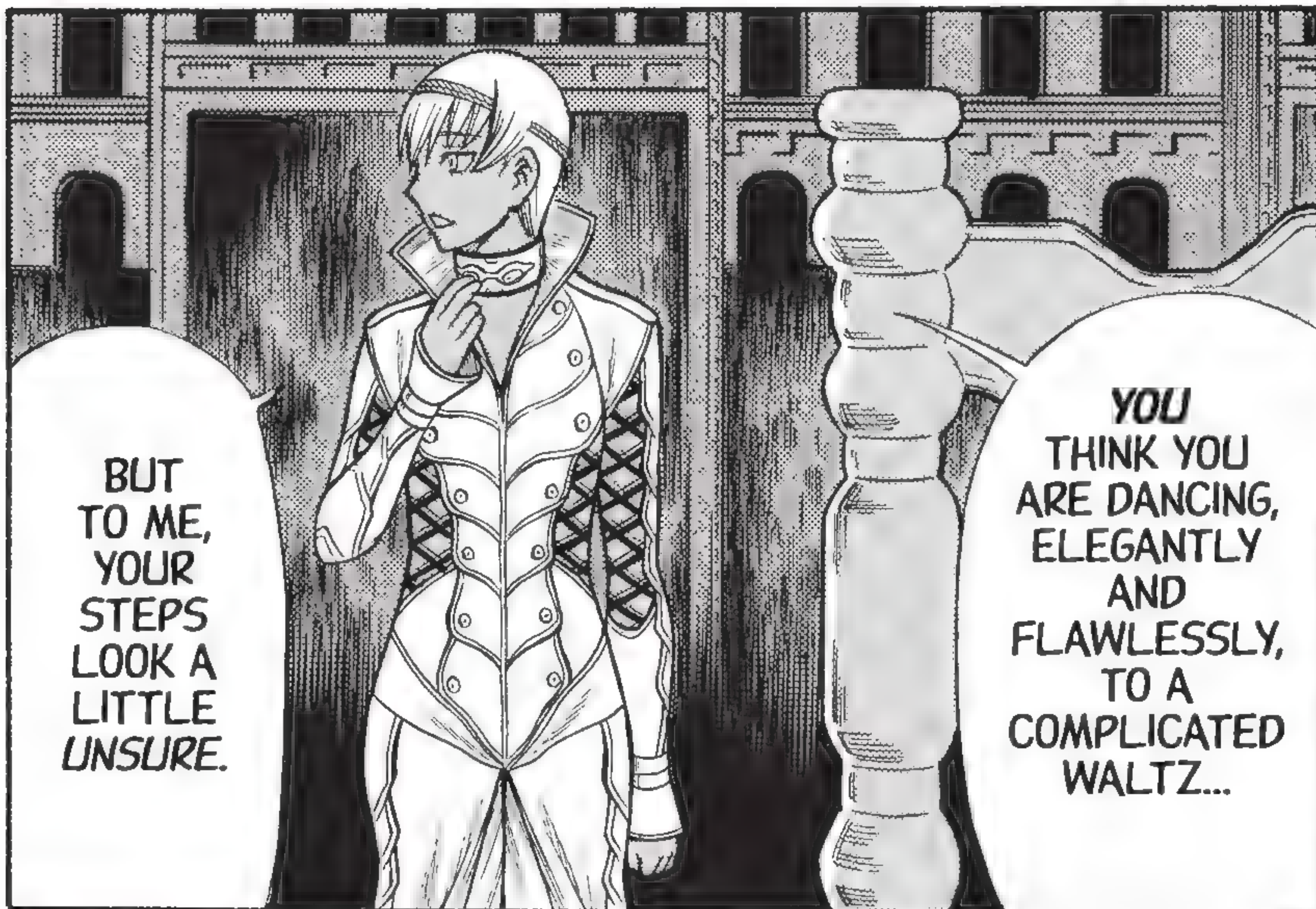






WITH THIS,
PROGRESS
ON THE
AVATAR-
CEMENTA-
TION DRUG
SHOULD BE
ABLE TO
MOVE
FORWARD IN
LEAPS AND
BOUNDS.

IT WILL
ONLY BE
A MATTER
OF TIME
BEFORE
PRINCESS
MINA IS
TRULY
YOURS.



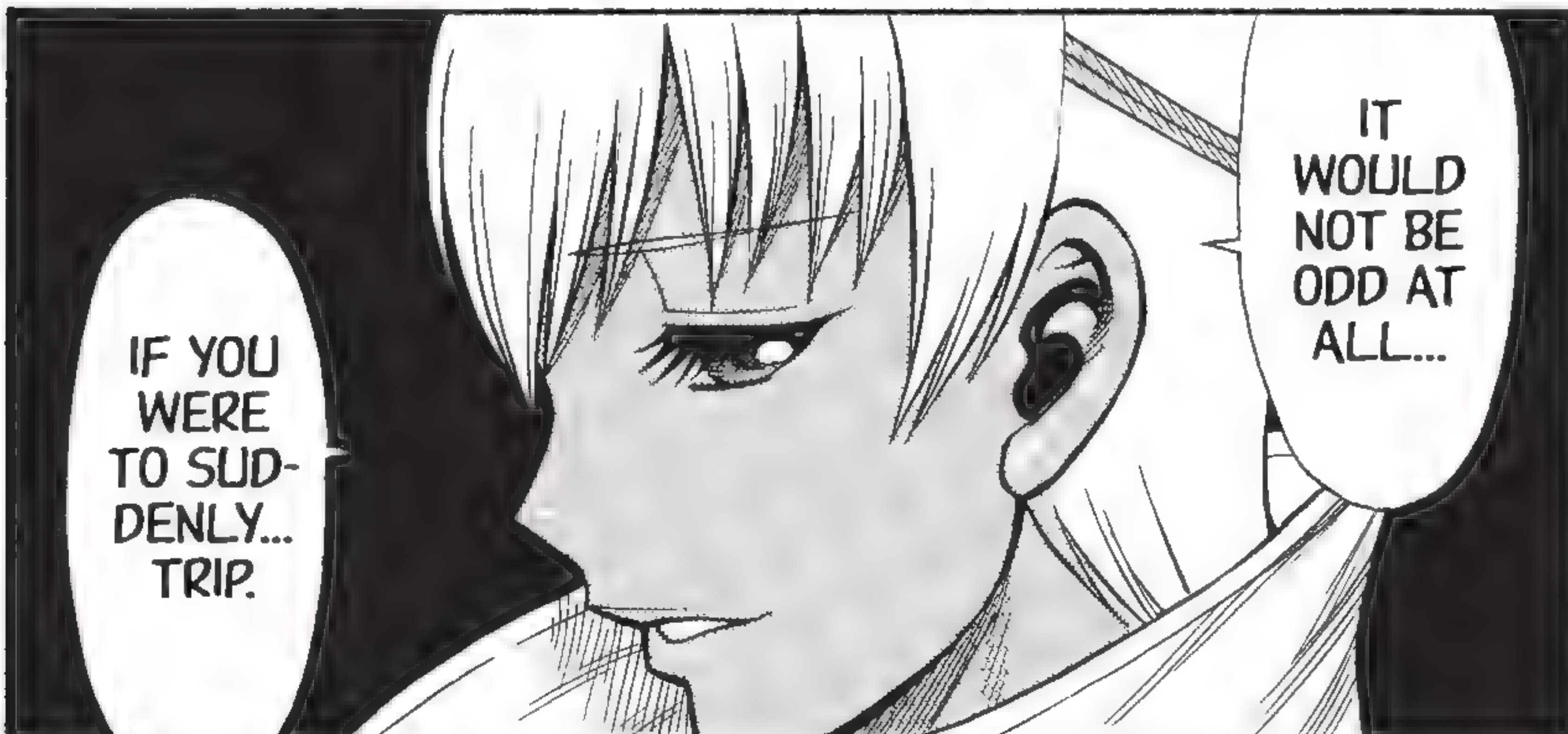
BUT
TO ME,
YOUR
STEPS
LOOK A
LITTLE
UNSURE.

YOU
THINK YOU
ARE DANCING,
ELEGANTLY
AND
FLAWLESSLY,
TO A
COMPLICATED
WALTZ...



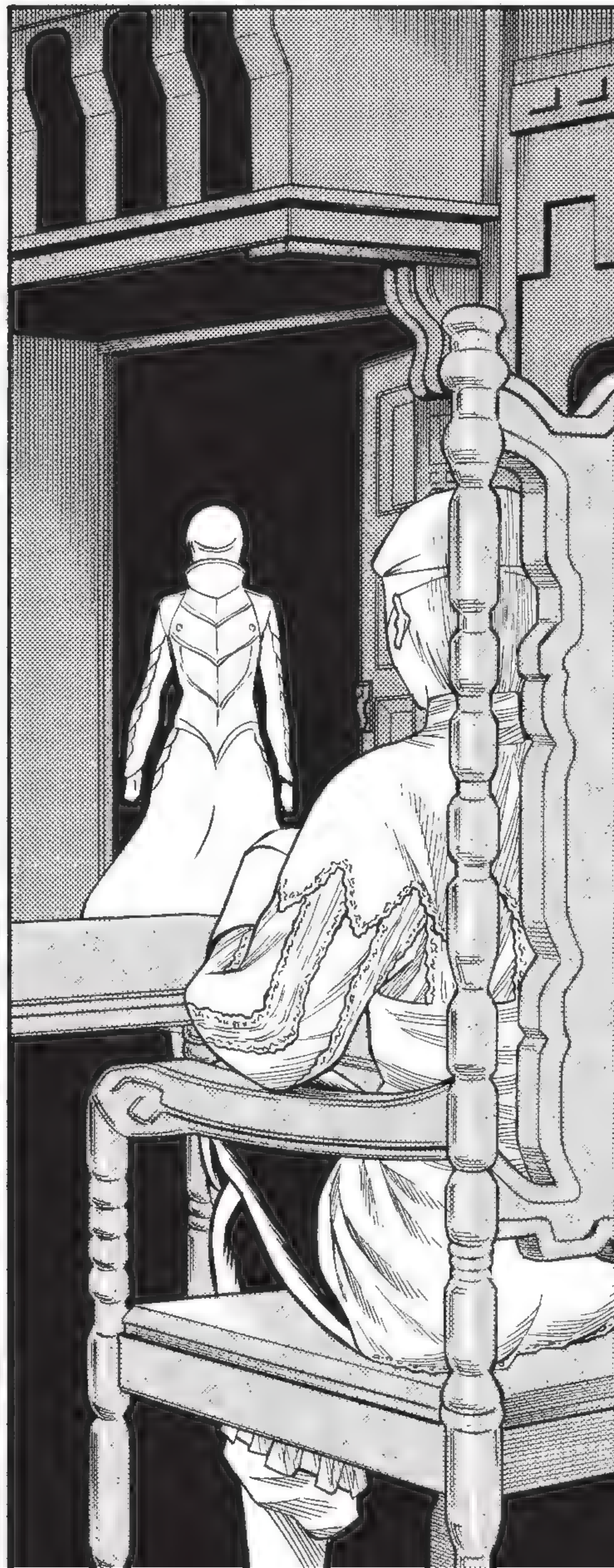
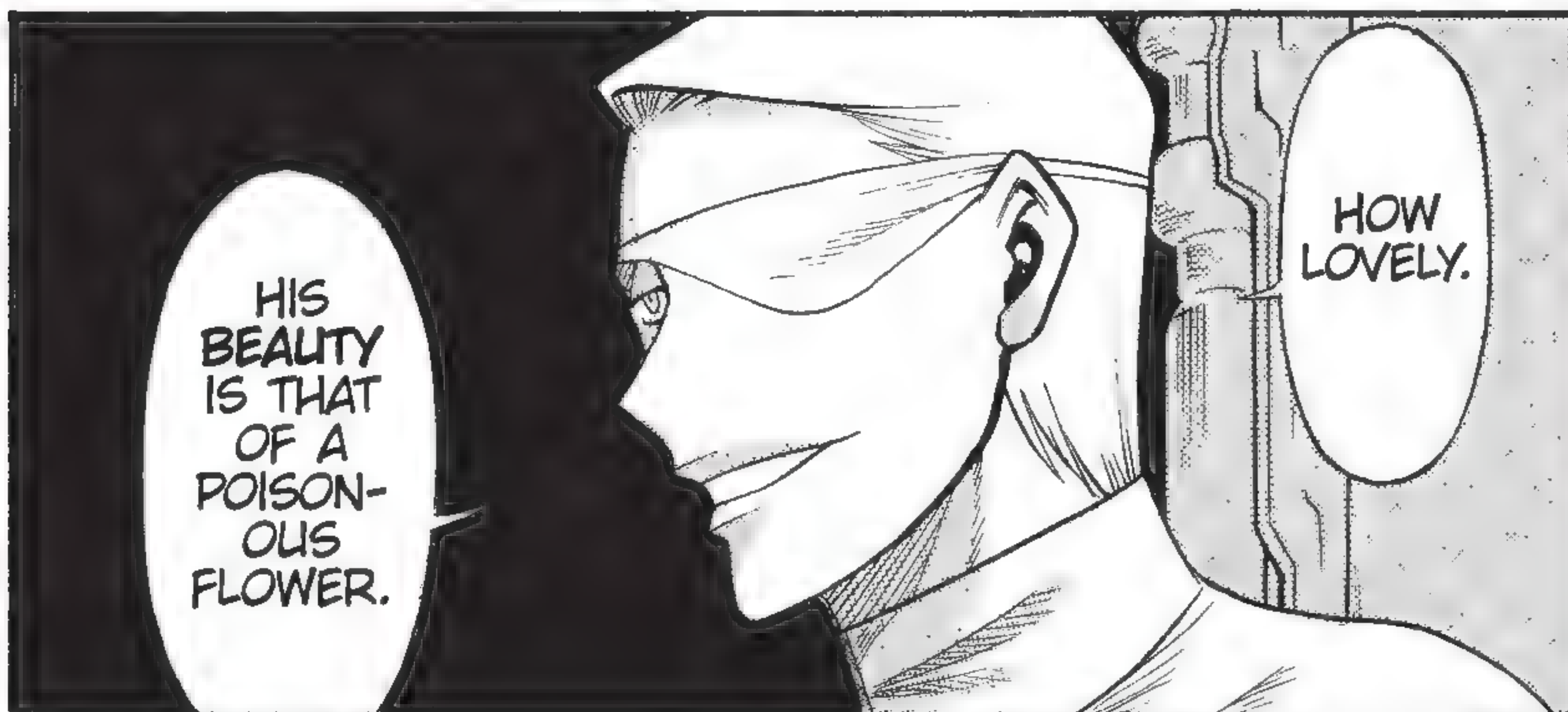
DOES THIS
LITTLE
DANCE
OF OURS
REALLY
SEEM SO
FUNNY?

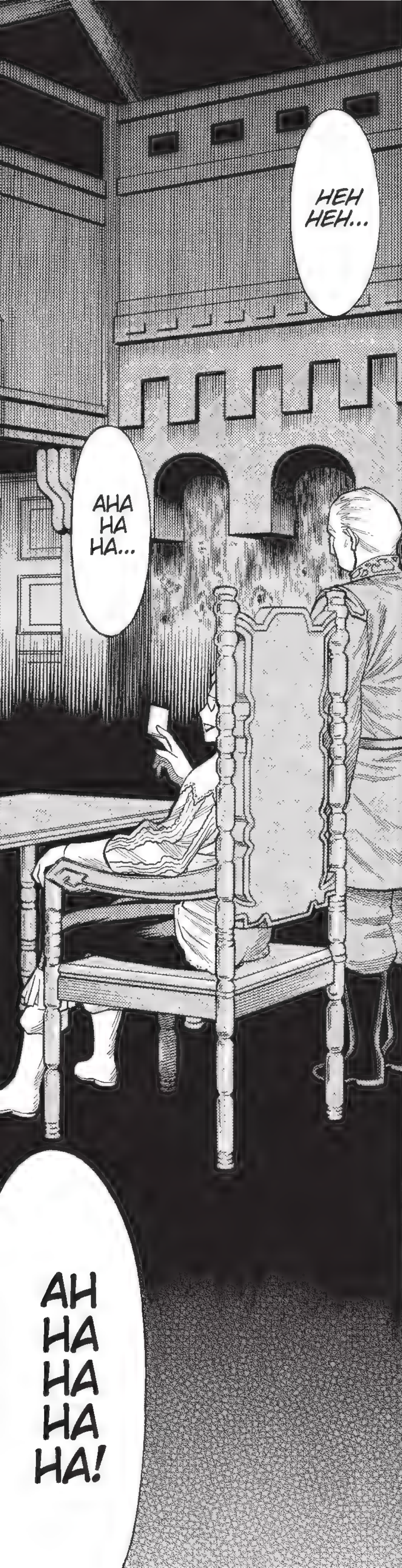
OH, A
SMILE?
FROM
YOU?



IF YOU
WERE
TO SUD-
DENLY...
TRIP.

IT
WOULD
NOT BE
ODD AT
ALL...

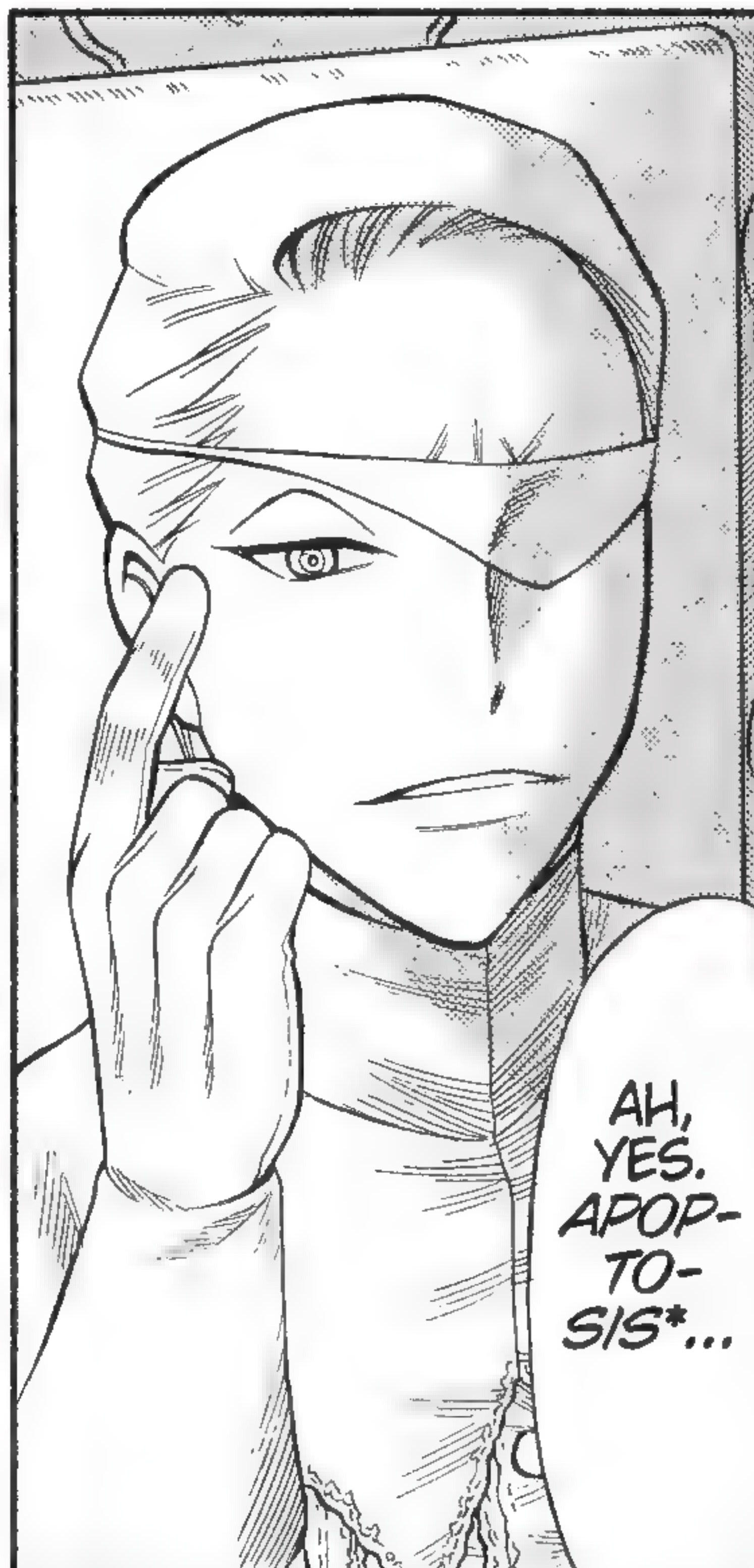




HEH
HEH...

AHA
HA
HA...

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA!



AH,
YES.
APOPTO-
SIS*...



HE
IS A
WERE-
WOLF.

NO
WEREWOLF
EVER
ALLOWS A
VAMPIRE
TO DRINK
ITS
BLOOD.

OUR
BITE IS
LETHAL
TO
THEM.

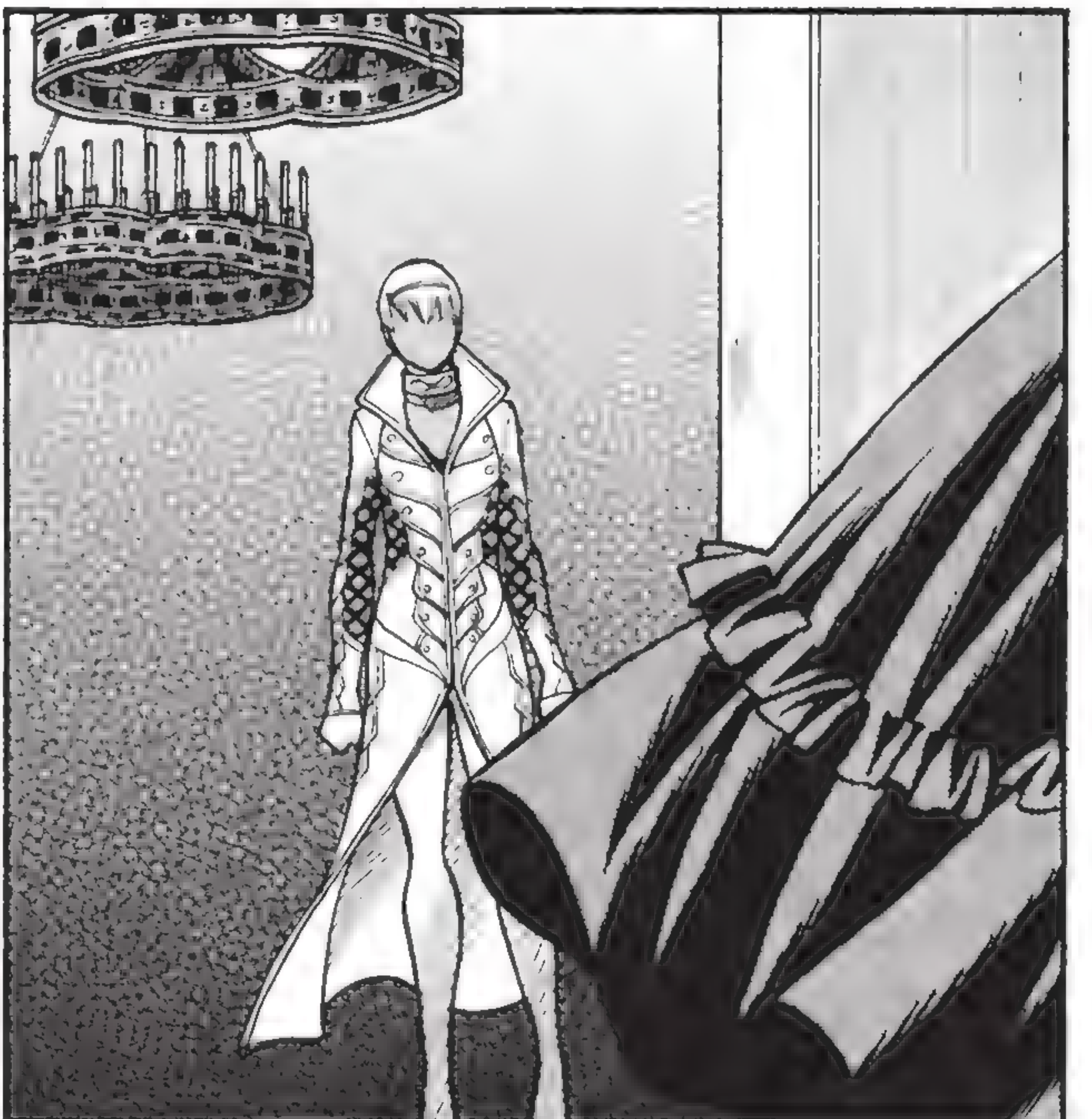
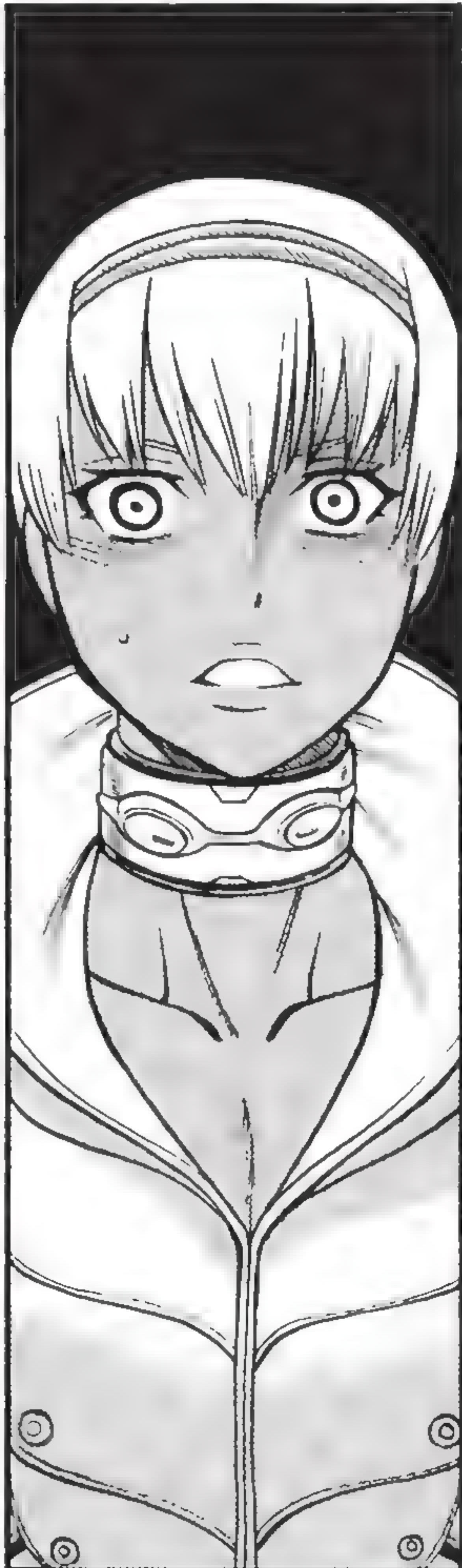
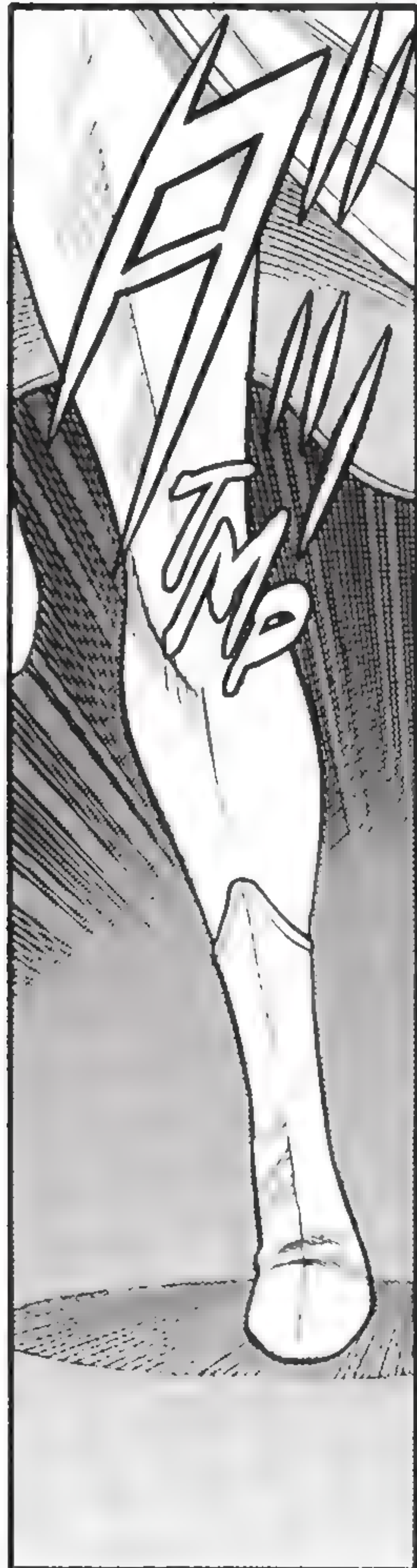
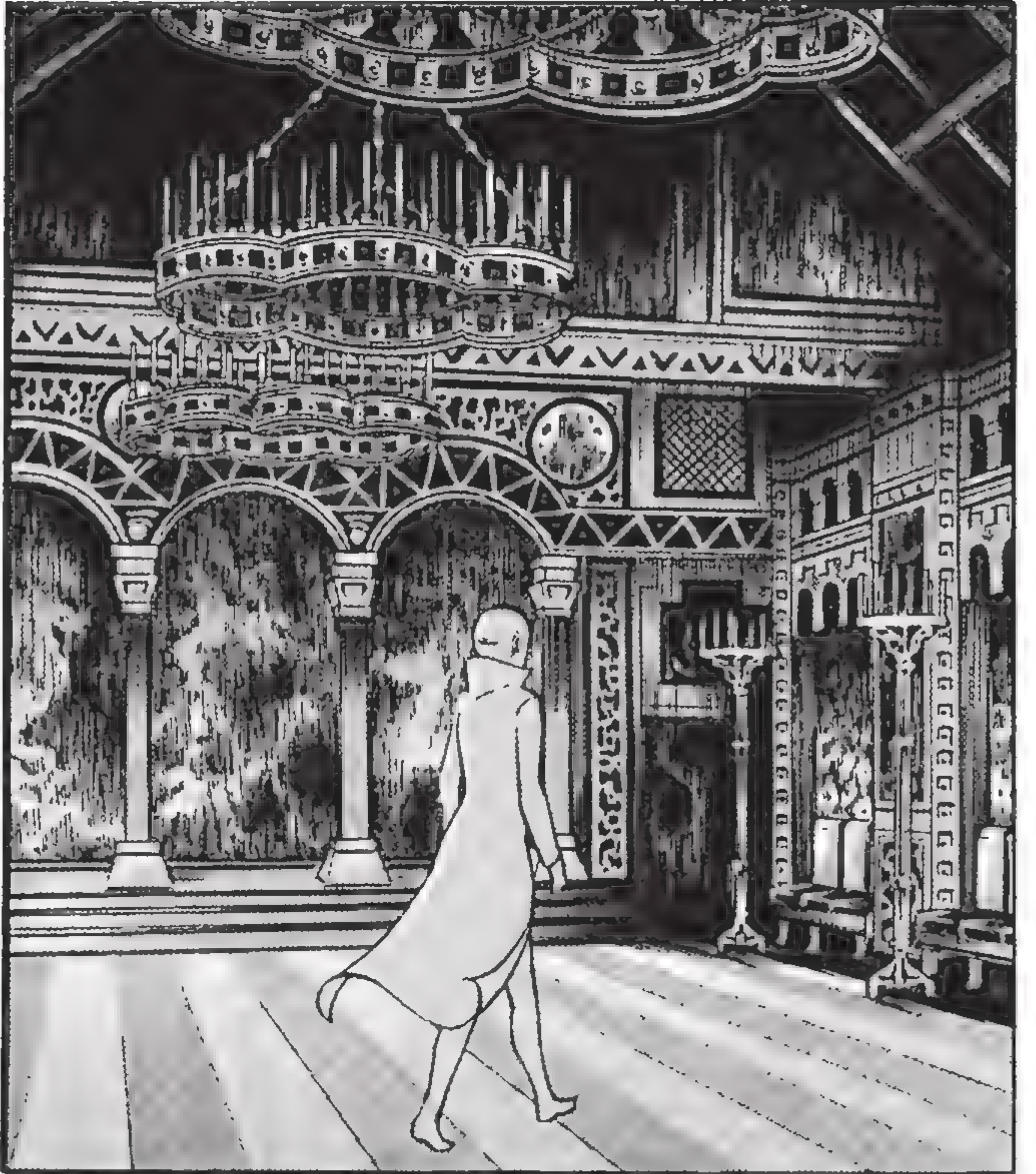
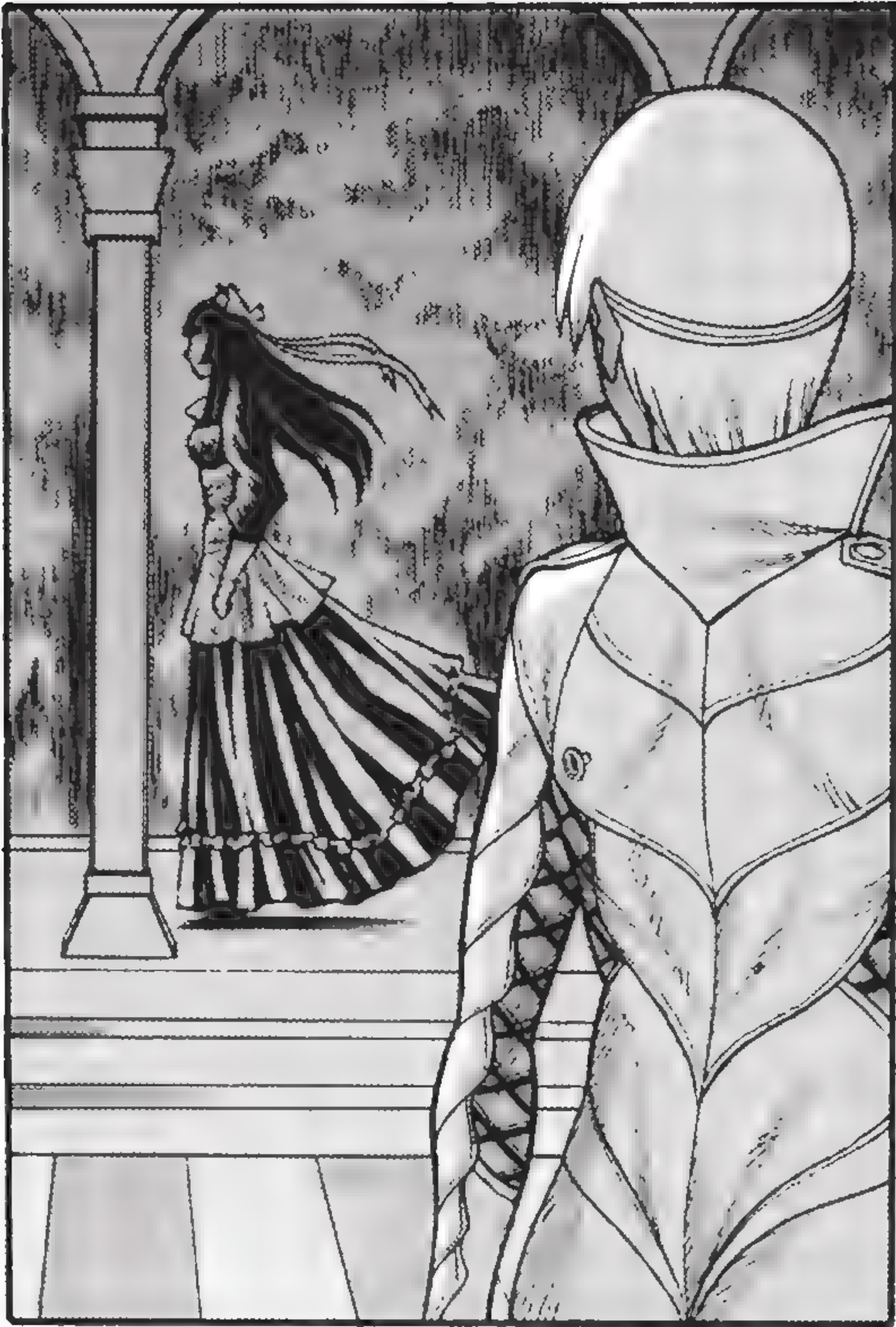
*Apoptosis is the process of programmed cell death. In this case, the death of an individual on a cellular level.

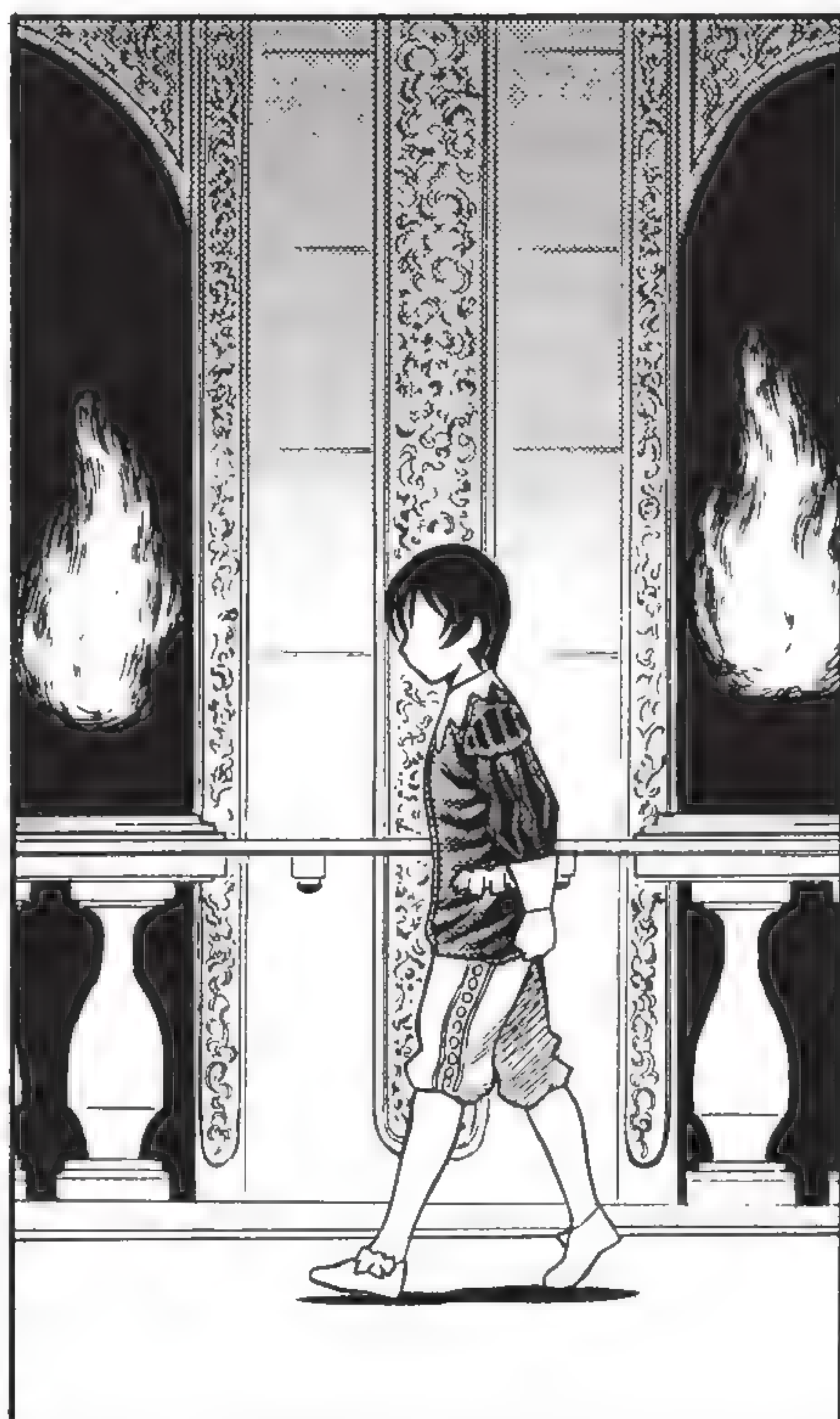
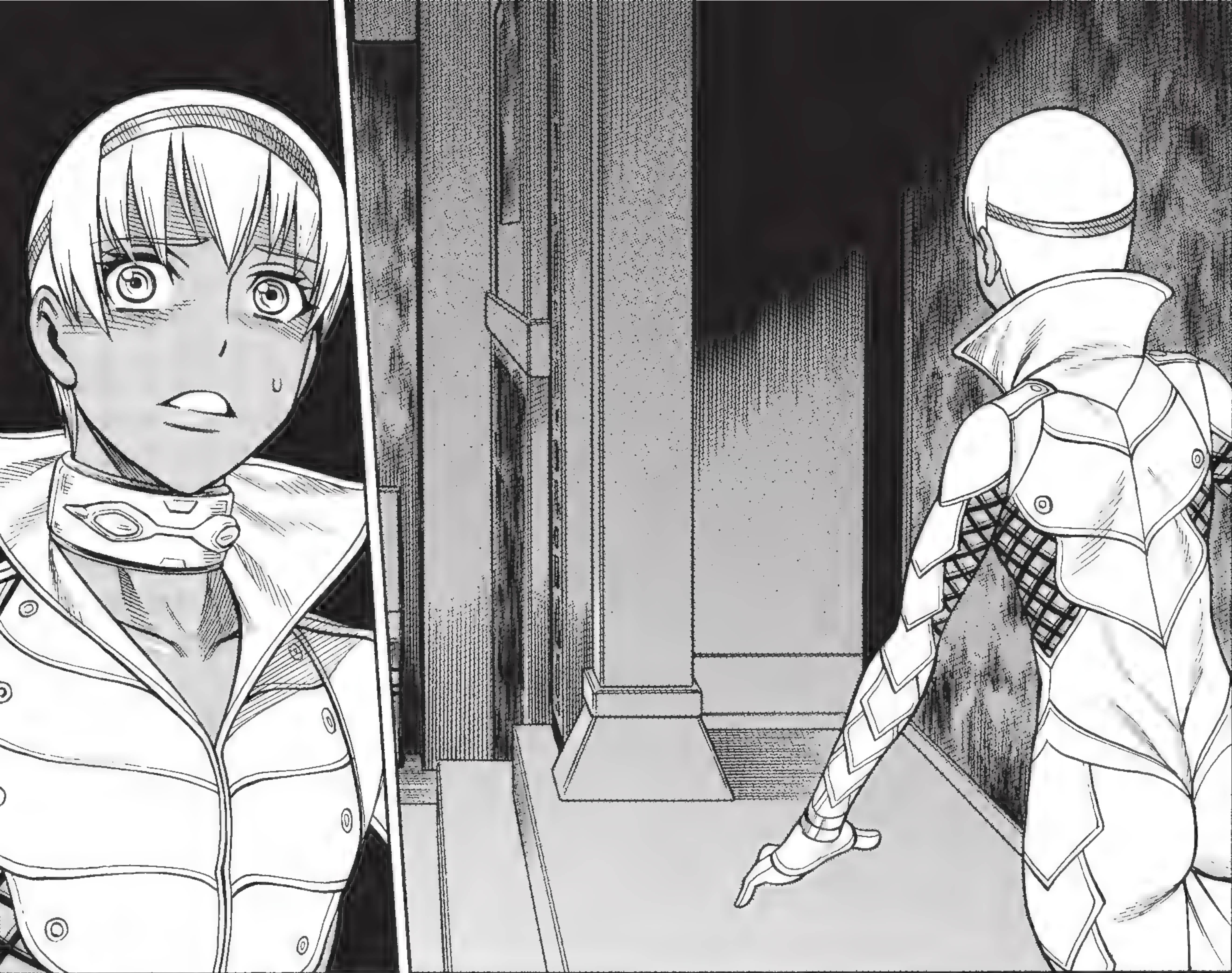


HN.
THAT
POOR
DOCTOR
HAD NO
LUCK
AT
ALL...

IF ANGEL
HAD DELIVERED
THIS BUT
FIVE MINUTES
SOONER,
HE MIGHT NOT
HAVE LOST
HIS LIFE SO
MEANINGLESSLY
AFTER ALL.

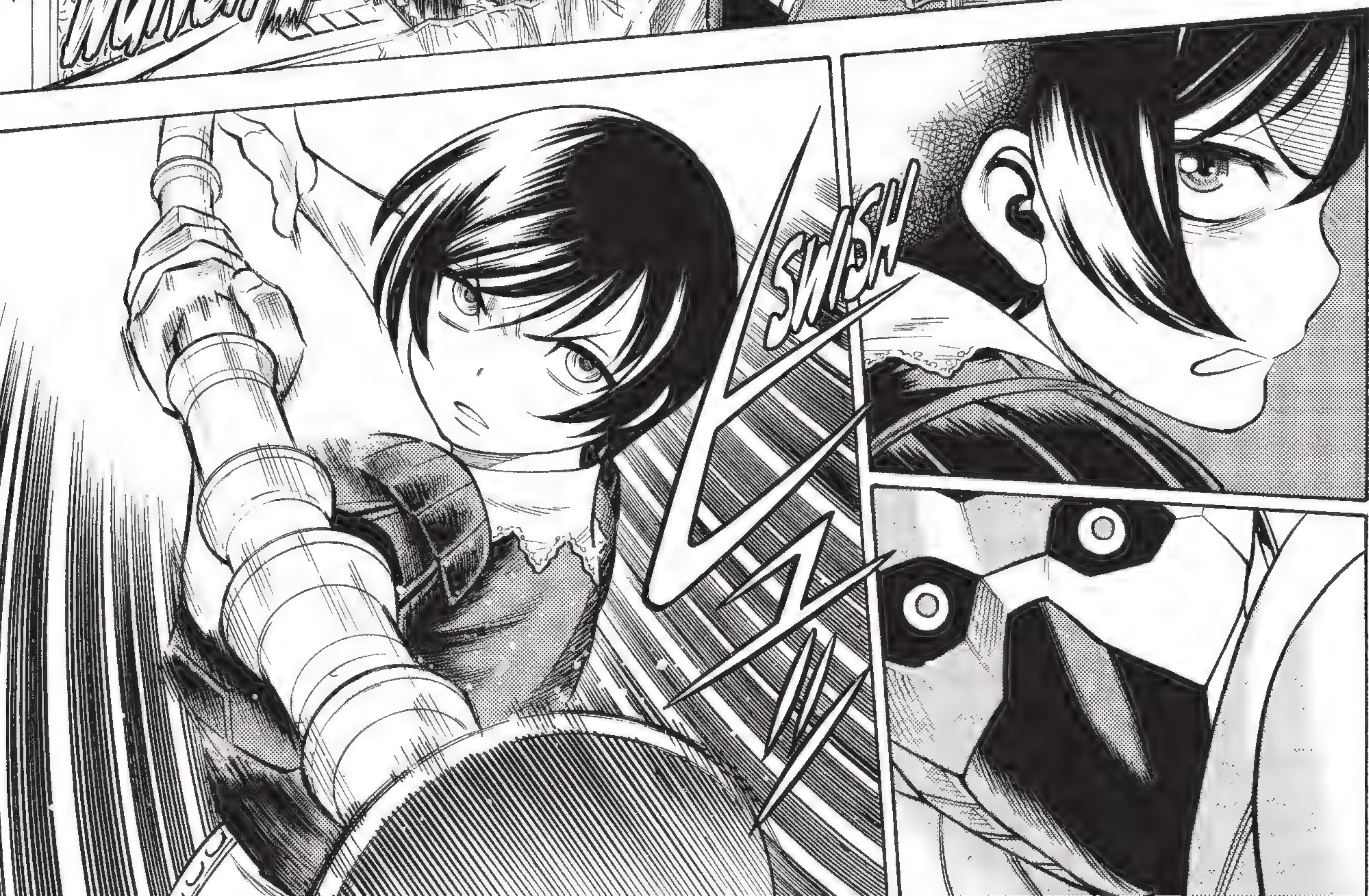




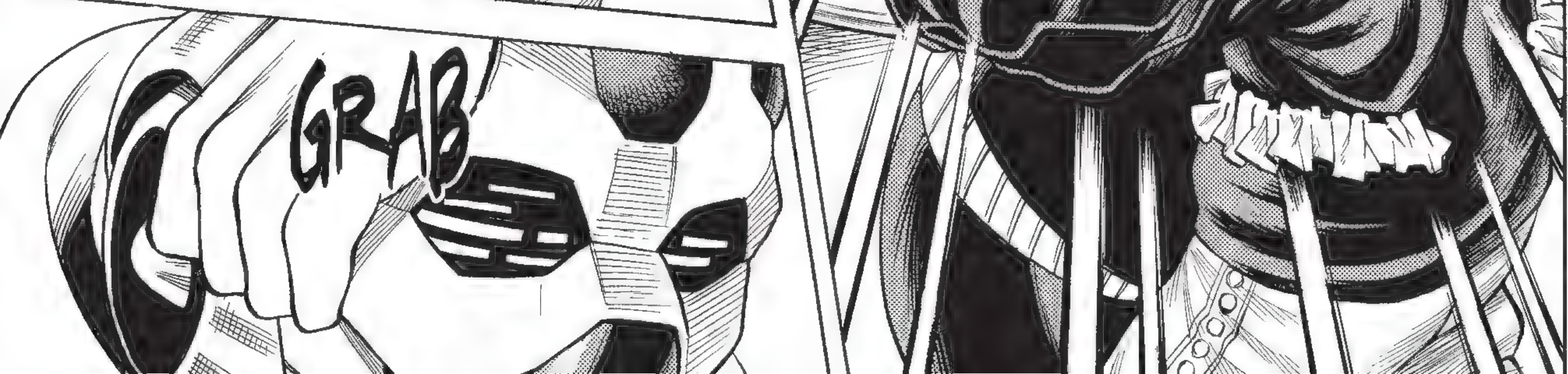


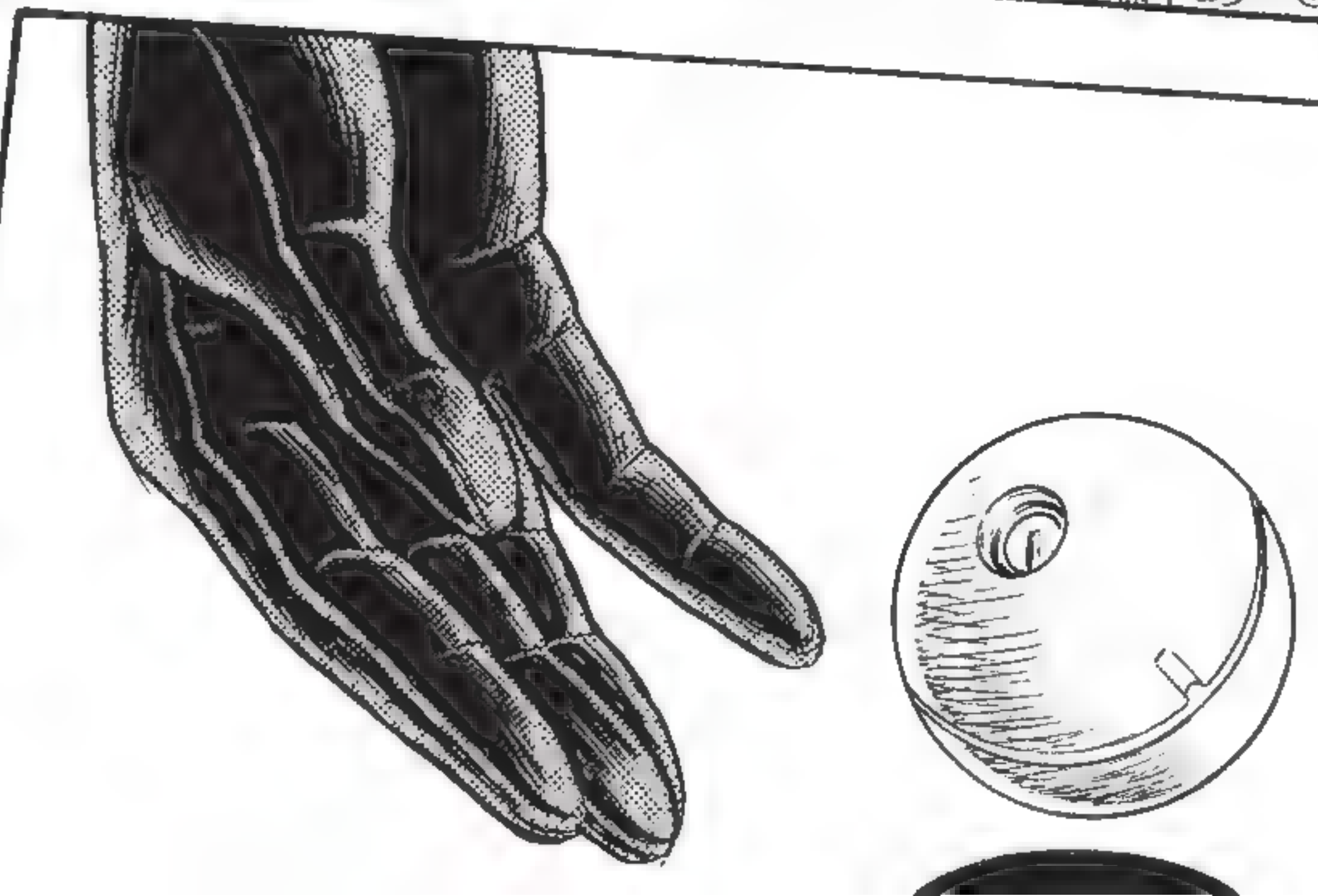


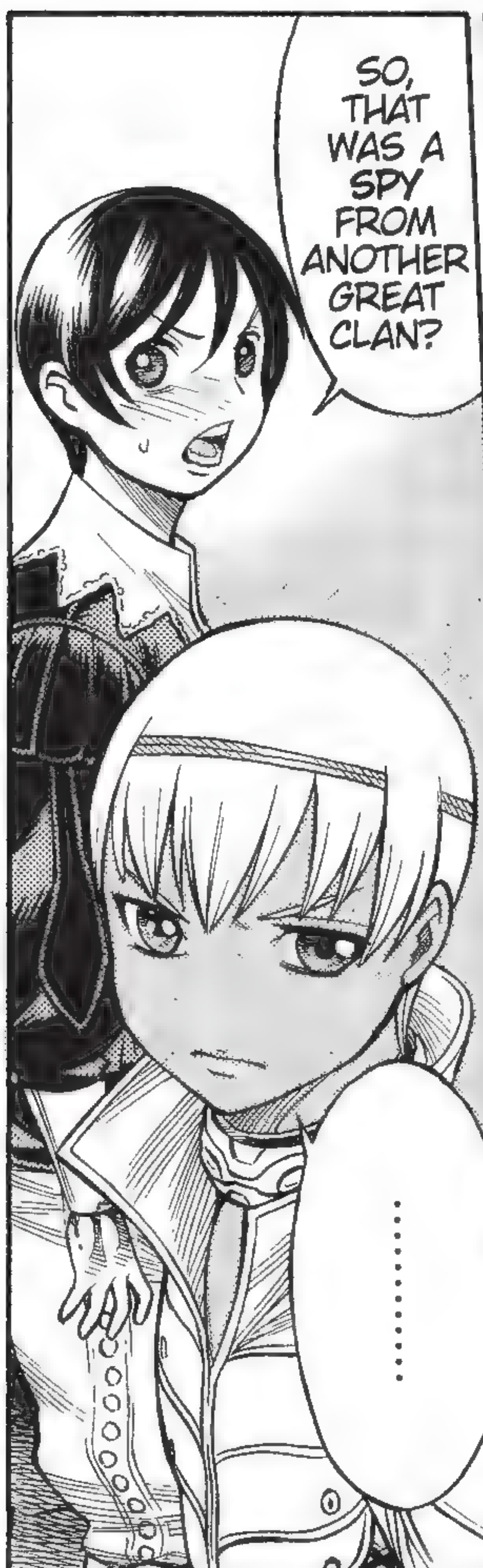
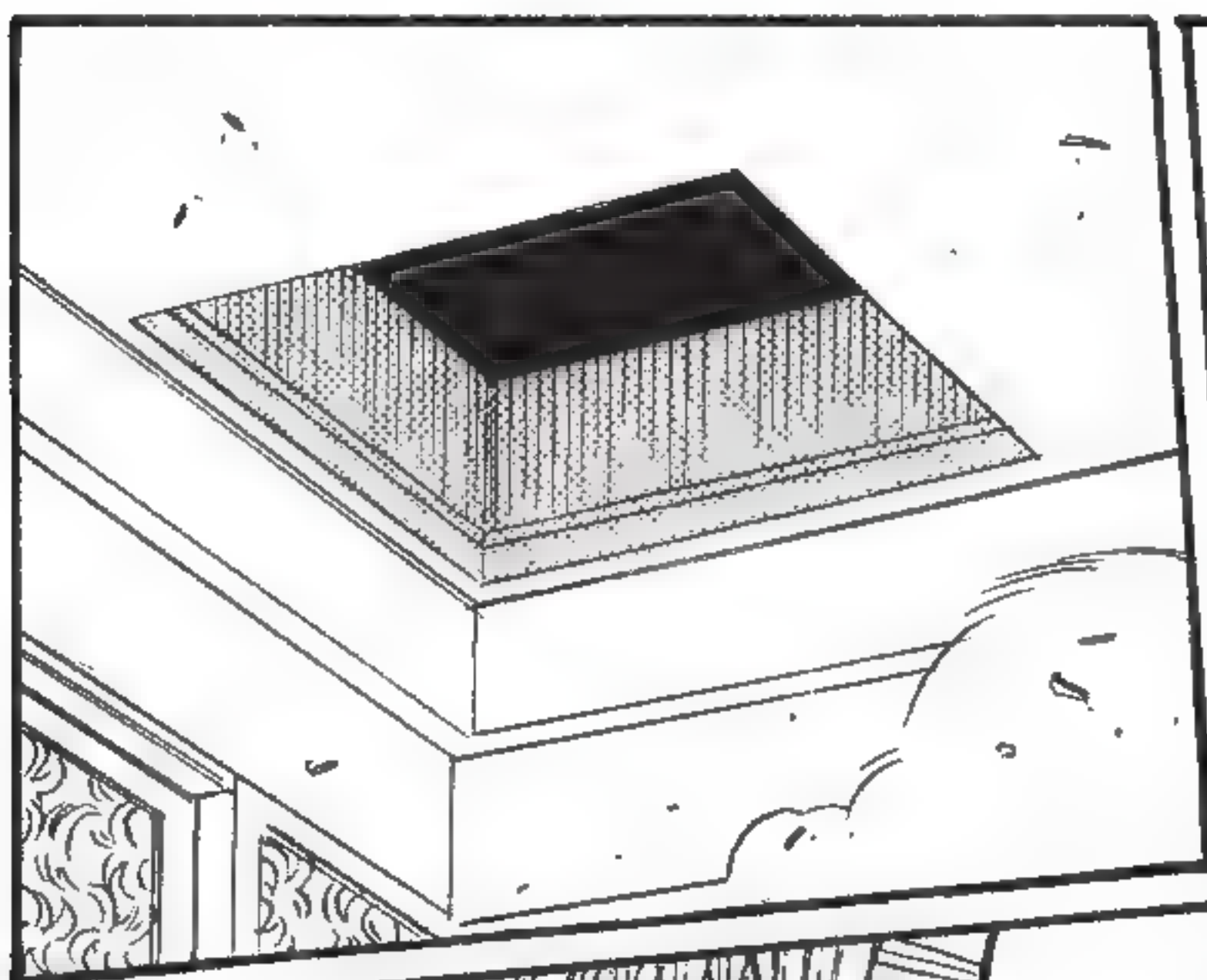
*Military slang for kilometer.

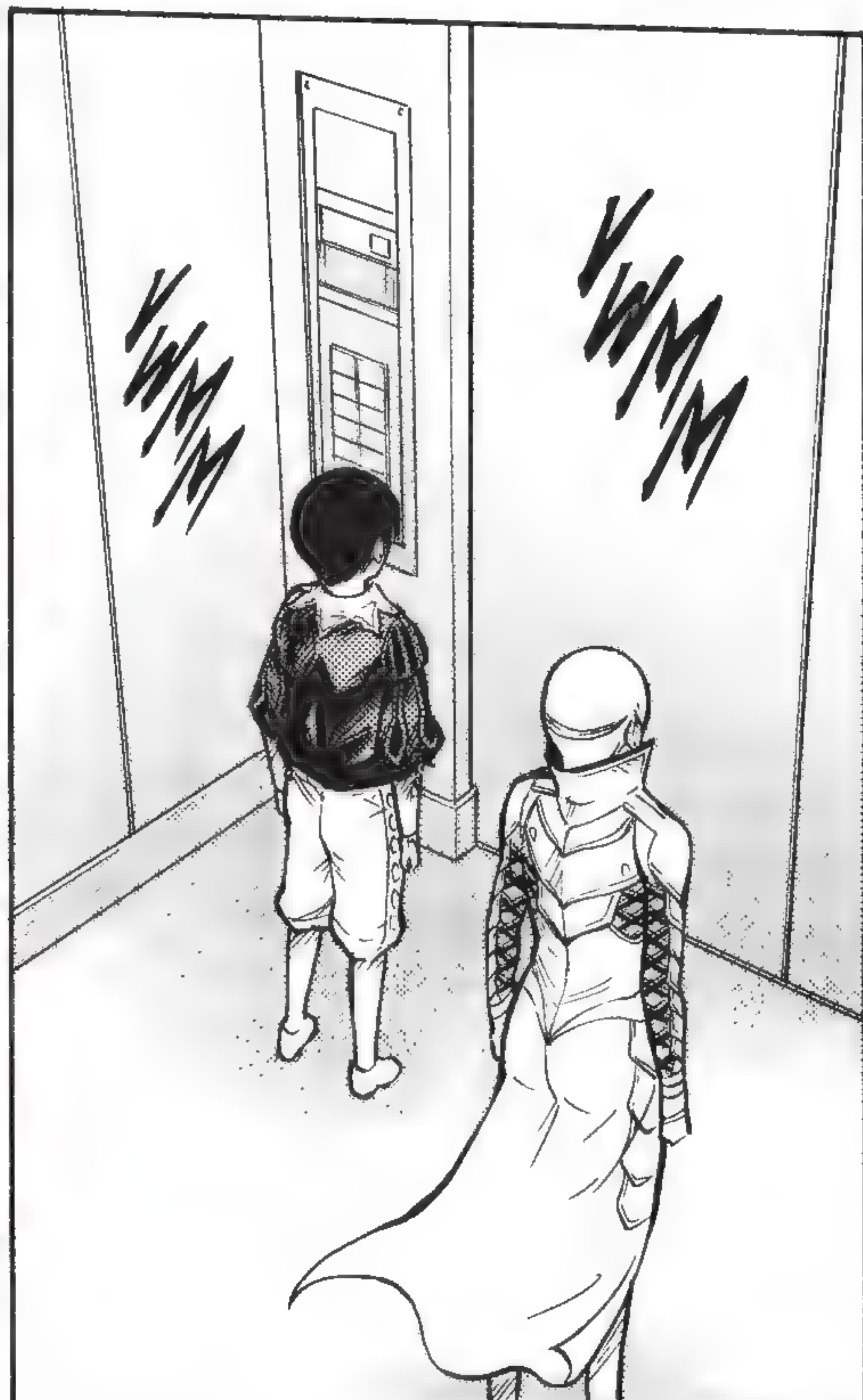
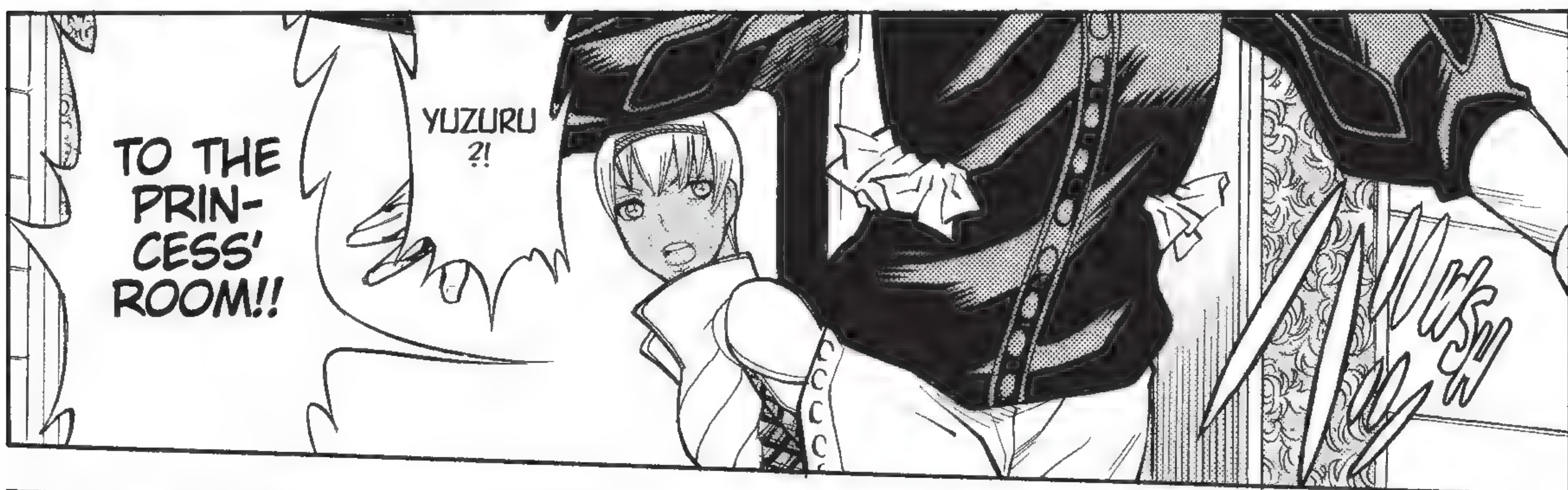














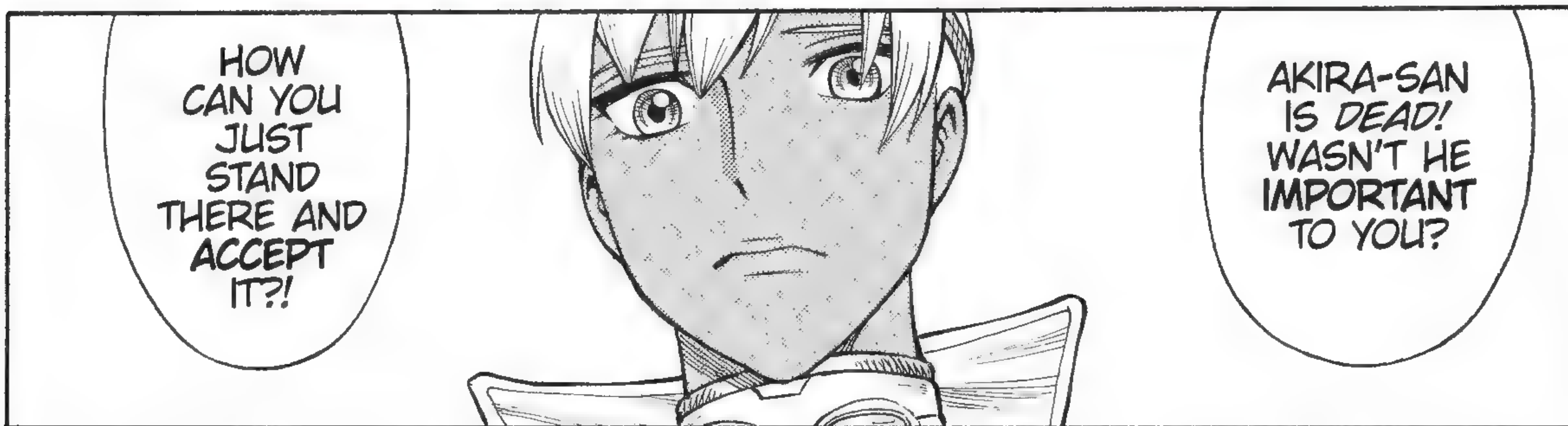
ISN'T
IT THE
SAME
FOR
YOU?!

THE ONE
PERSON
WHO WAS
MORE
IMPORTANT
TO ME THAN
ANYTHING
IS GONE.
WITHOUT
HER, WHY
SHOULD I
BOTHER TO
CLING TO
LIFE?



LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

I DON'T
CARE WHAT
HAPPENS
TO THIS
BODY OF
MINE.
IF I DIE,
THEN I
DIE.



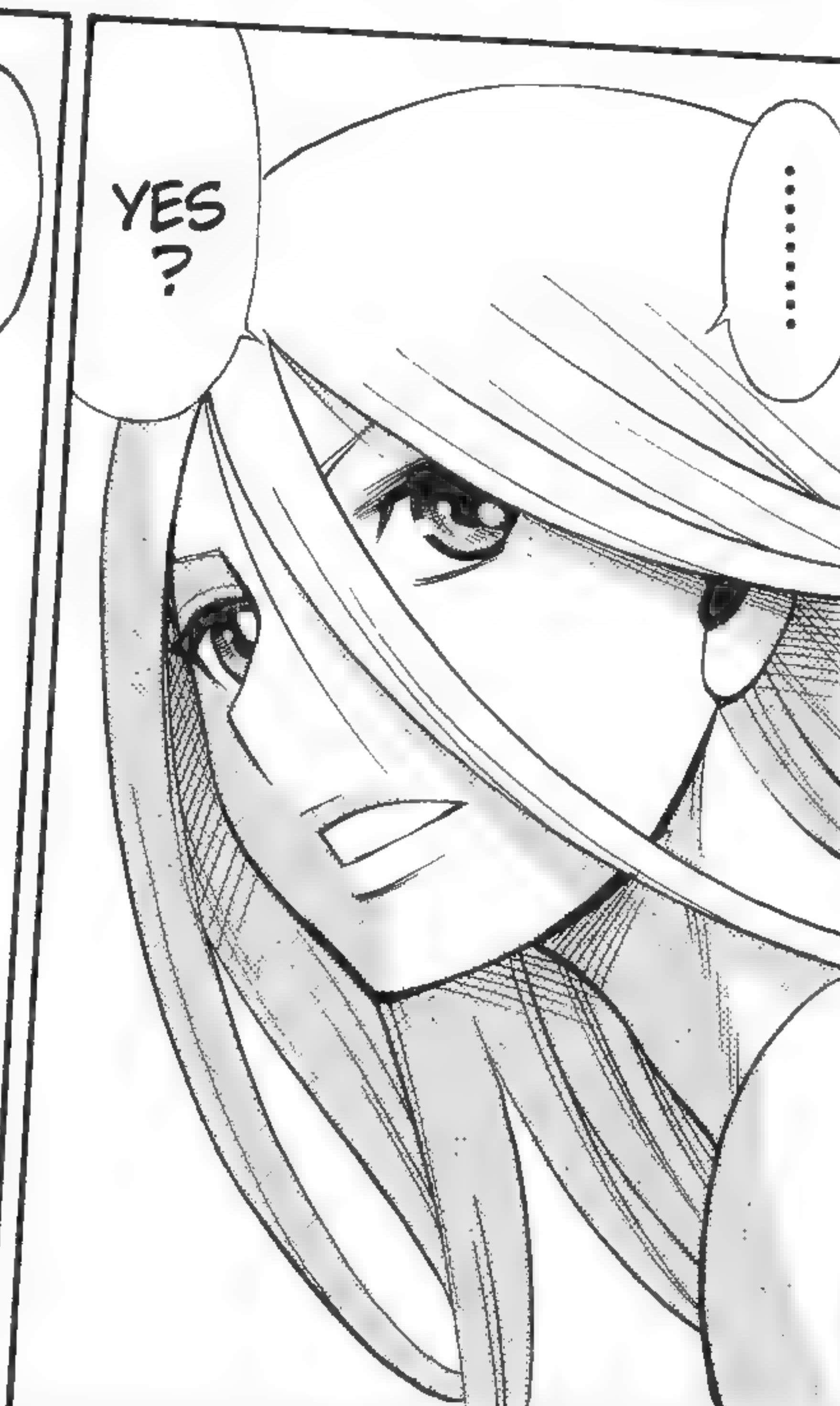
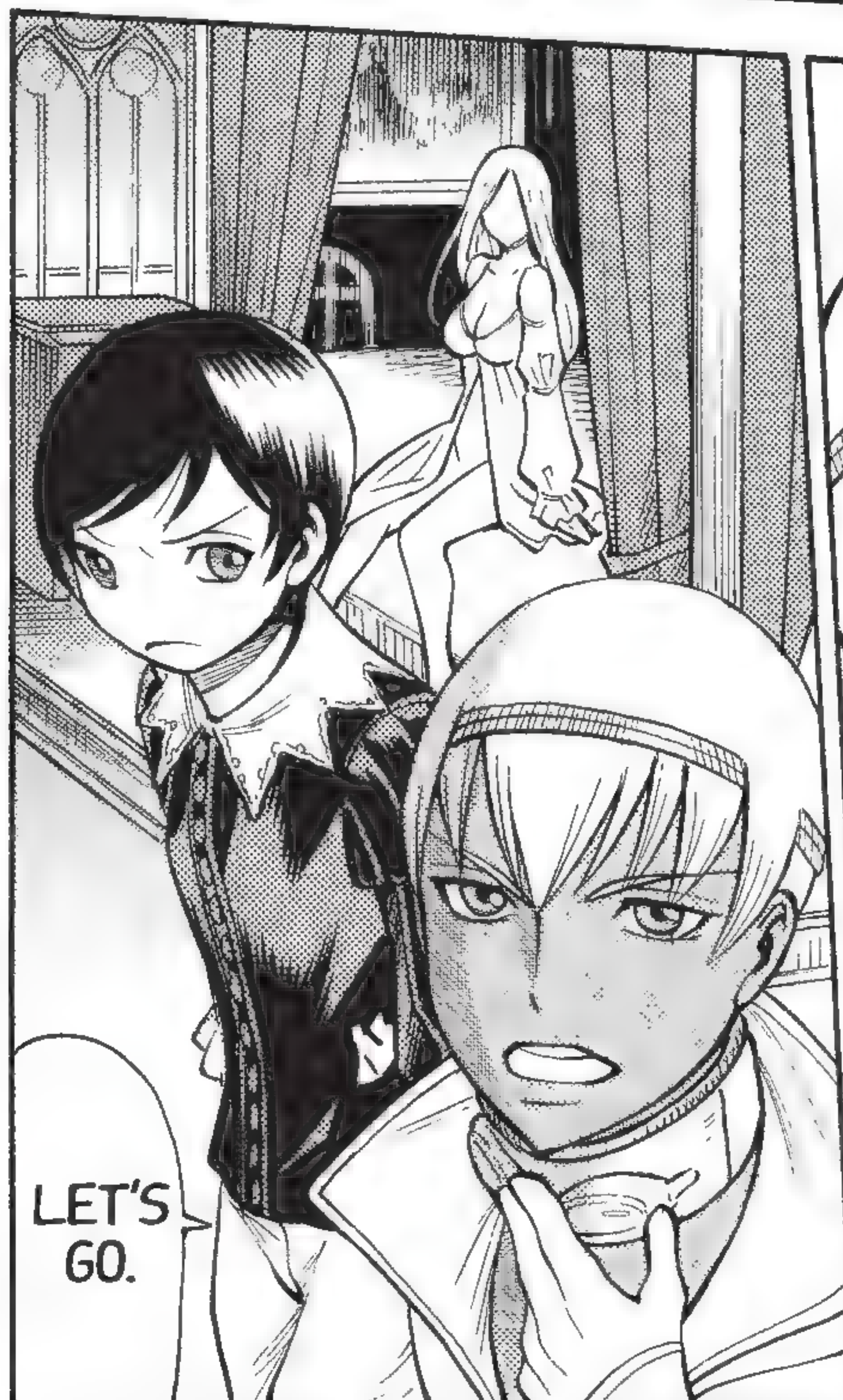
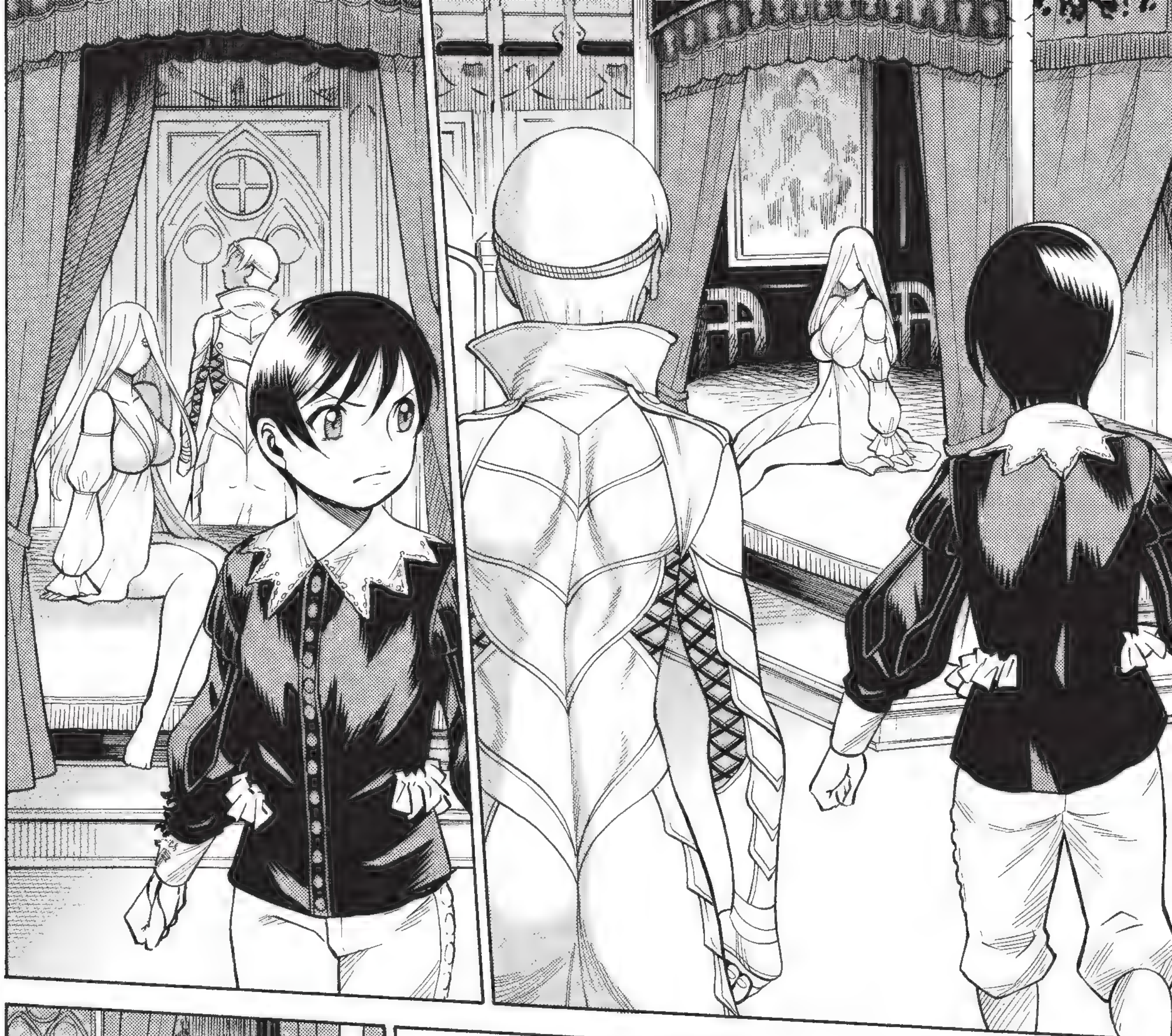
HOW
CAN YOU
JUST
STAND
THERE AND
ACCEPT
IT?!

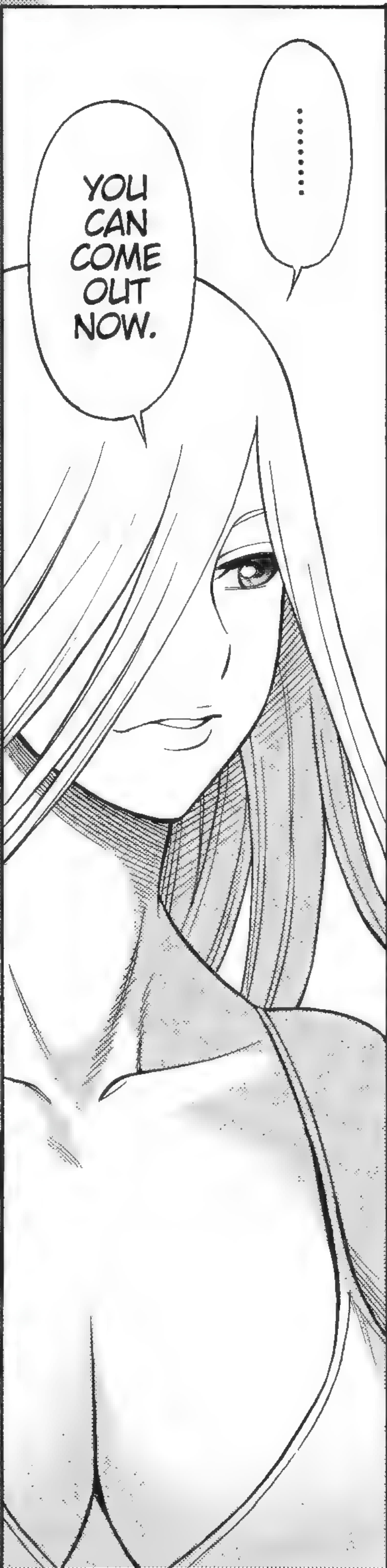
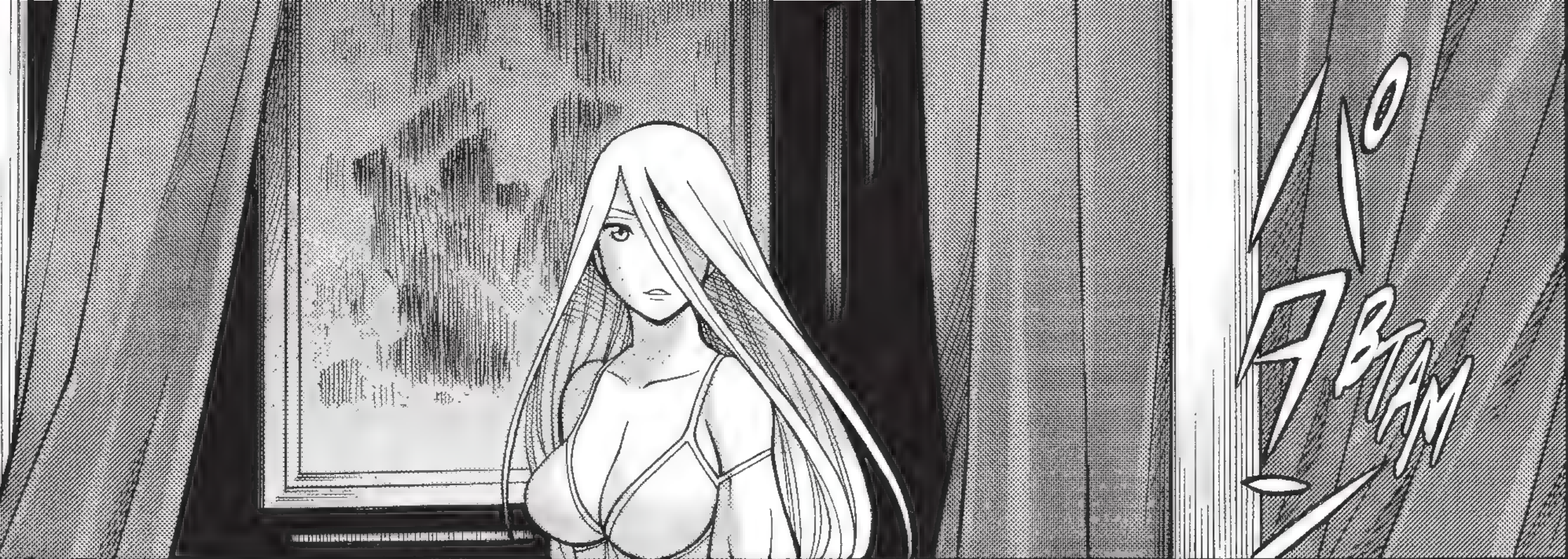
AKIRA-SAN
IS DEAD!
WASN'T HE
IMPORTANT
TO YOU?

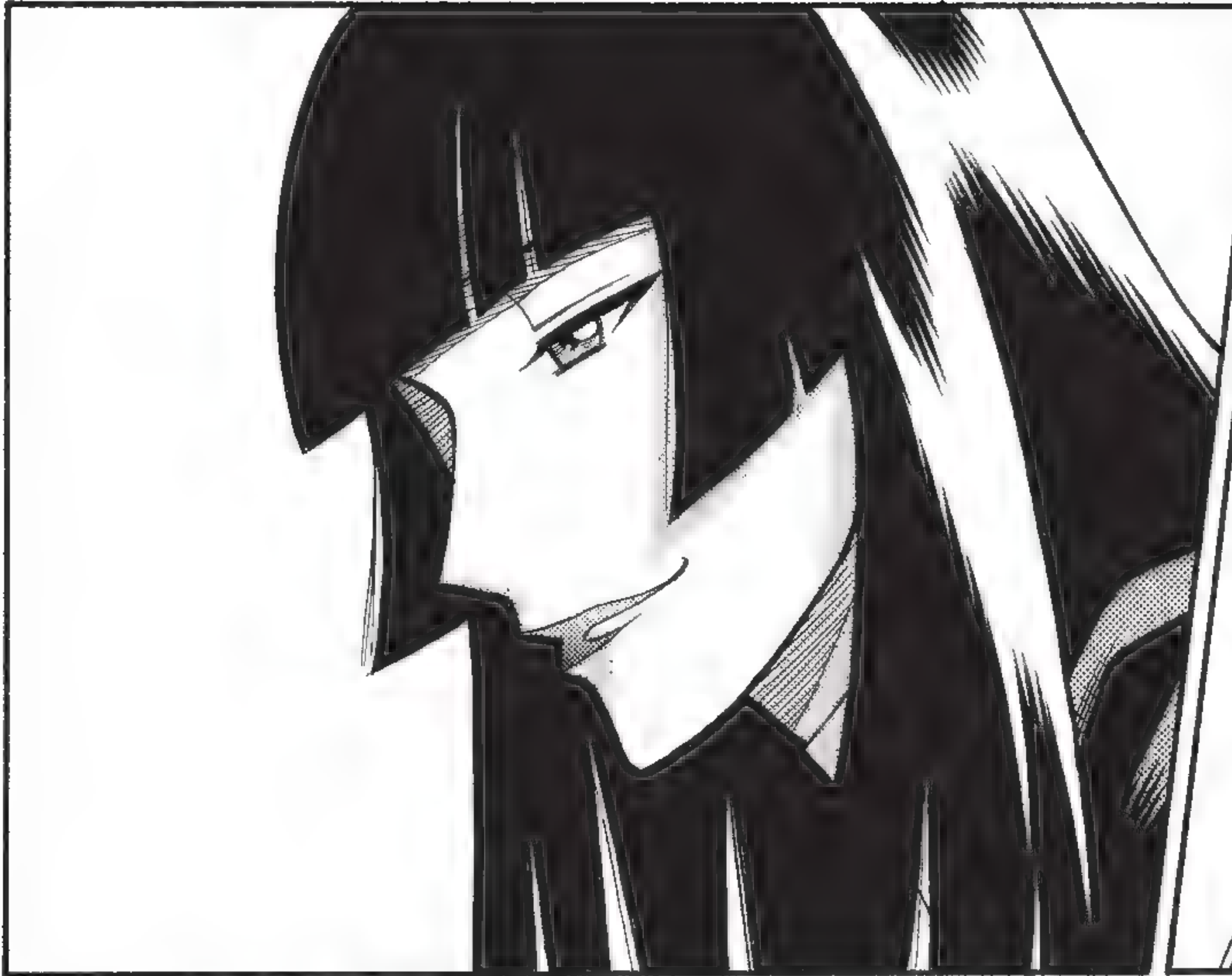


I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW
ANYONE
CAN JUST
STAND
THERE
WHEN THEIR
LOVED
ONE IS
DEAD AND
GONE!

I
DON'T
UNDER-
STAND
YOU.



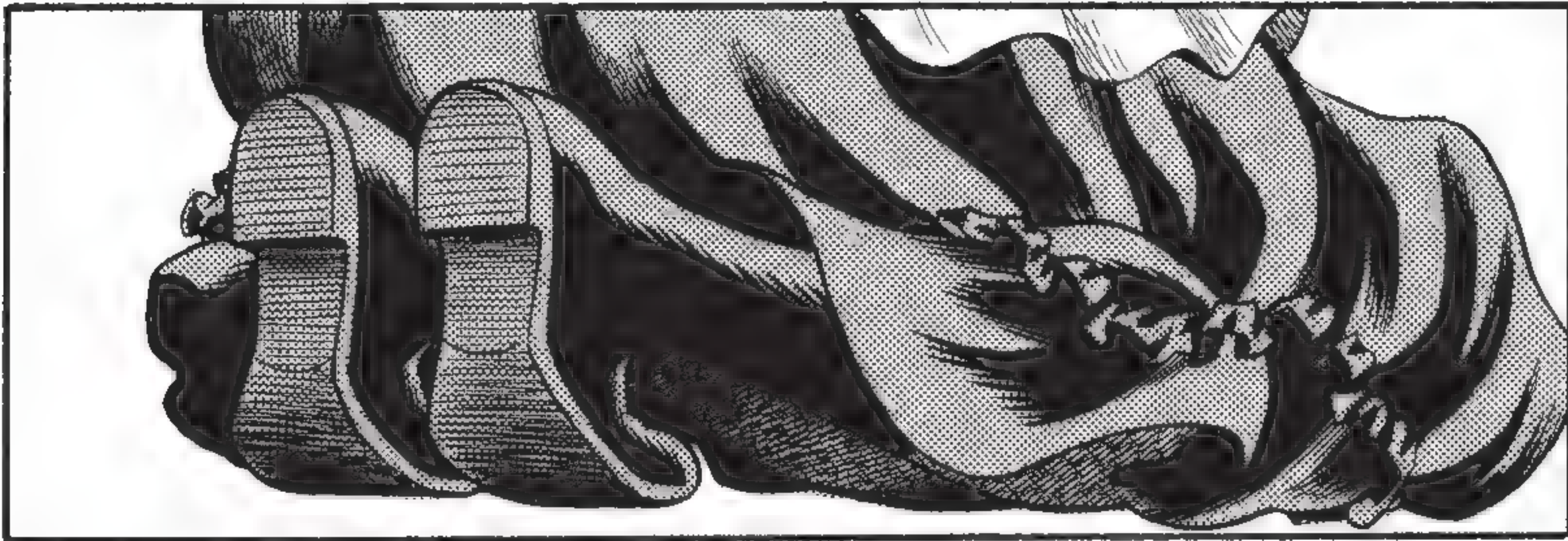




YOU
WERE
NO
ILLUSION
AT ALL.



I
KNEW
IT.

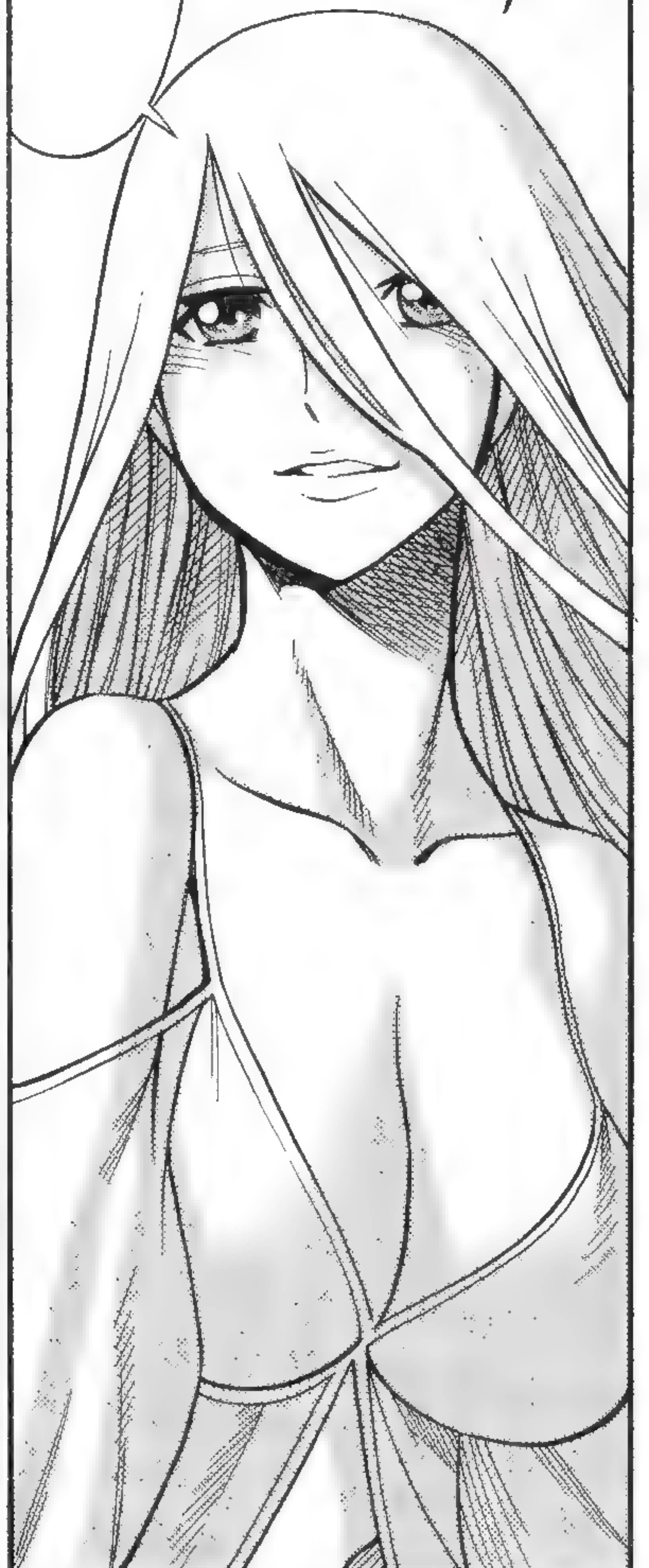


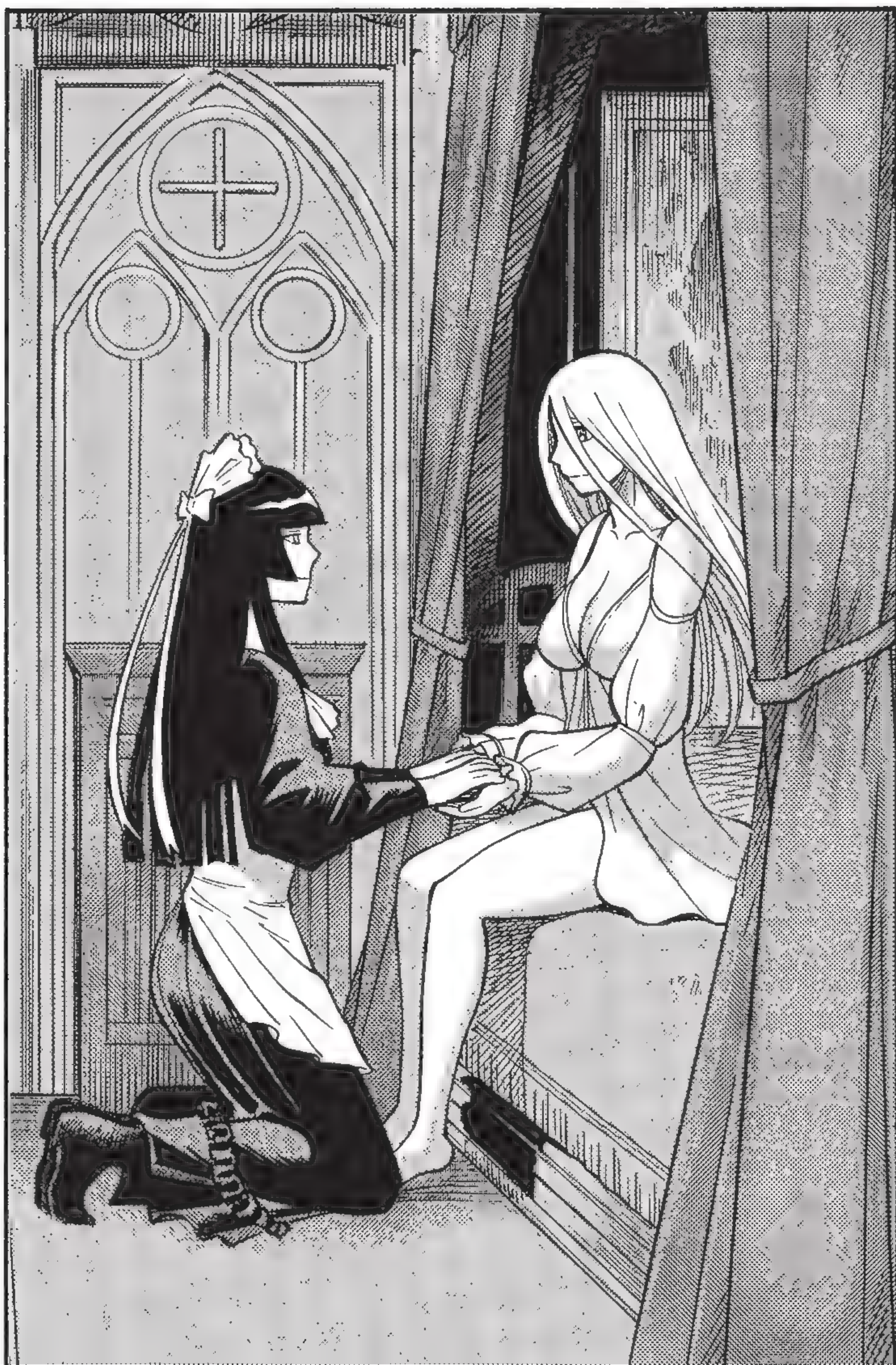
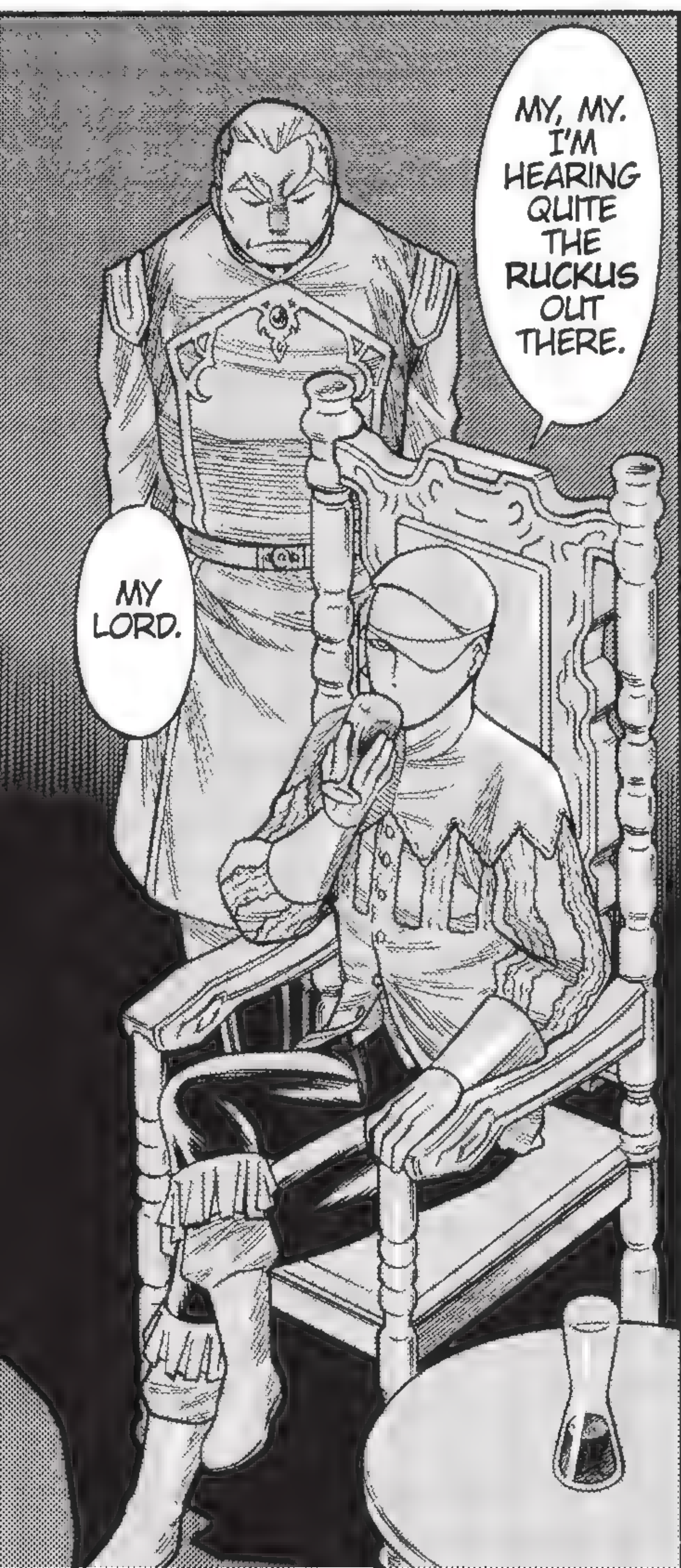
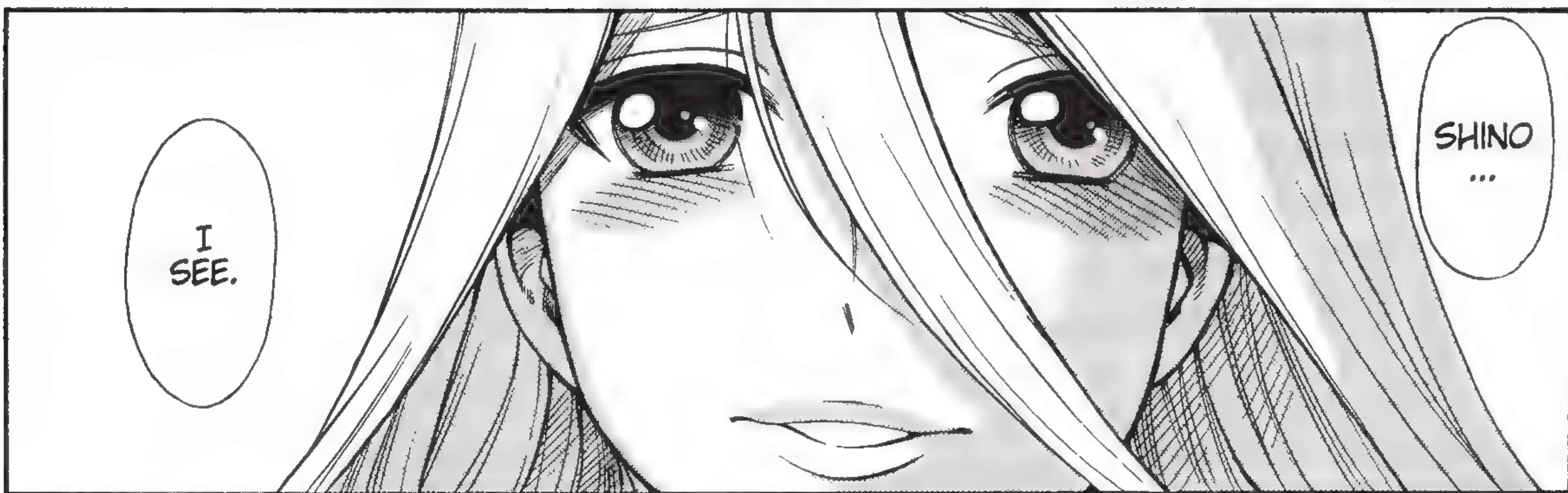
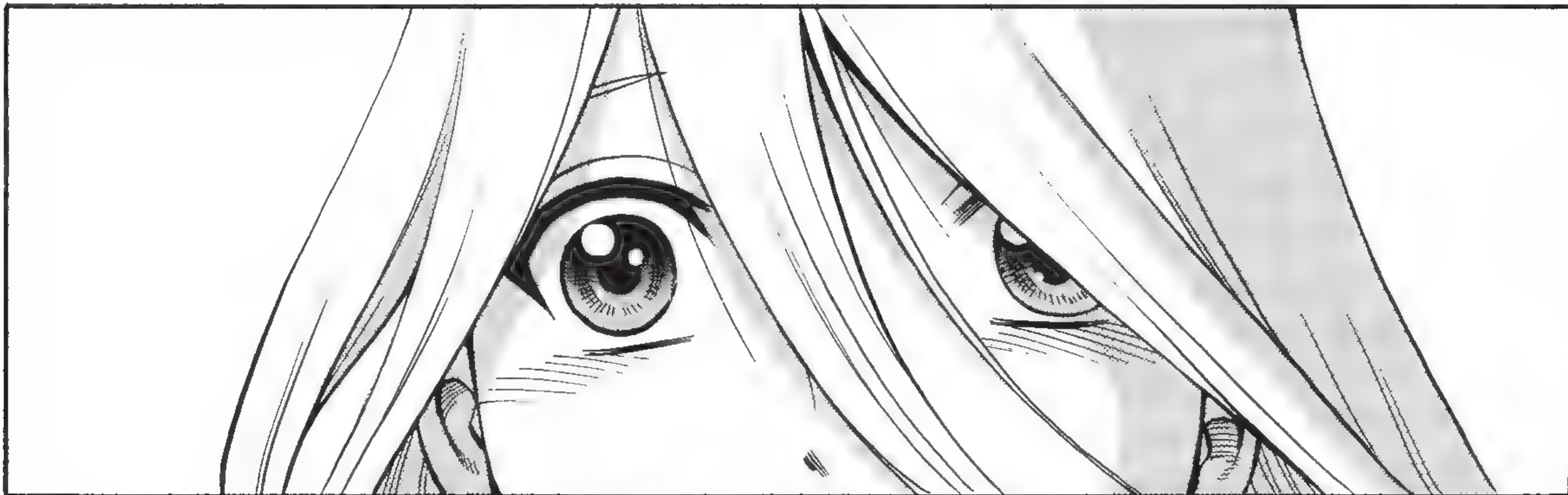
TELL
ME
YOUR
NAME.

COME...



SHINO.







WE HAVE
DEPLOYED
EVERY
AVAILABLE
SOLDIER
TO SEARCH
OUT AND
DESTROY
THEM.

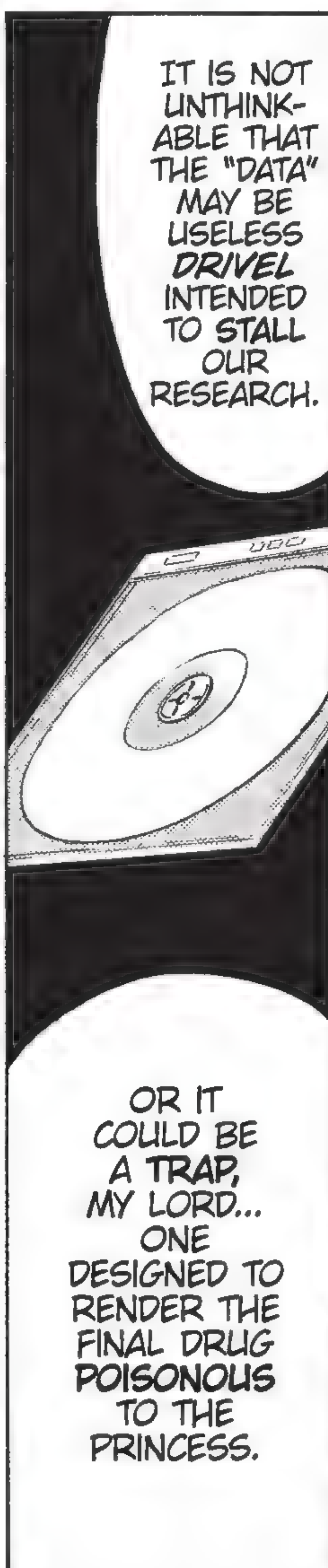
IT SEEMS
THERE ARE
UNKNOWN
INTRUDERS
WITHIN THE
CASTLE.



PERHAPS SO...
WHO WAS
THE ONE TO
SEND US THE
INFORMATION?
THE TELOMERE
LEADER
HERSELF?

WE
BELIEVE
THAT
DUKE
BORGIANI
WAS
RESPON-
SIBLE
FOR ITS
DELIVERY.

NO,
MY
LORD.
IT WAS
SENT
IN THE
NAME
OF THE
BUND
GOV-
ERN-
MENT.



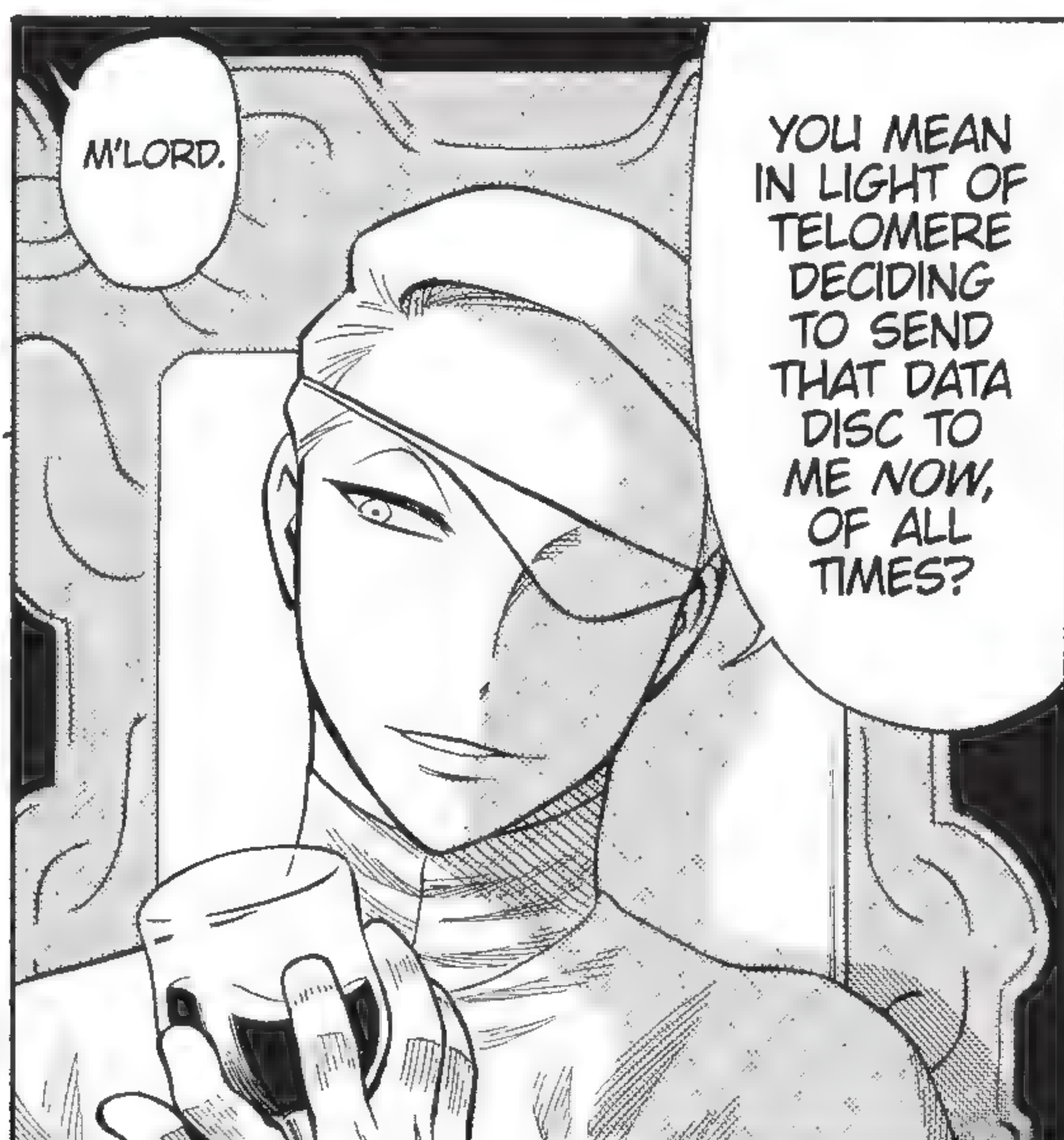
IT IS NOT
UNTHINK-
ABLE THAT
THE "DATA"
MAY BE
USELESS
DRIVEL
INTENDED
TO STALL
OUR
RESEARCH.

OR IT
COULD BE
A TRAP,
MY LORD...
ONE
DESIGNED TO
RENDER THE
FINAL DRUG
POISONOUS
TO THE
PRINCESS.



BUT I
BEG OF
YOU TO
PAY
CAREFUL
HEED TO
RECENT
EVENTS.

MY
LORD,
I AM
AWARE
THAT I
DARE
SPEAK
ABOVE
MY
PLACE
...



M'LORD.

YOU MEAN
IN LIGHT OF
TELOMERE
DECIDING
TO SEND
THAT DATA
DISC TO
ME NOW,
OF ALL
TIMES?



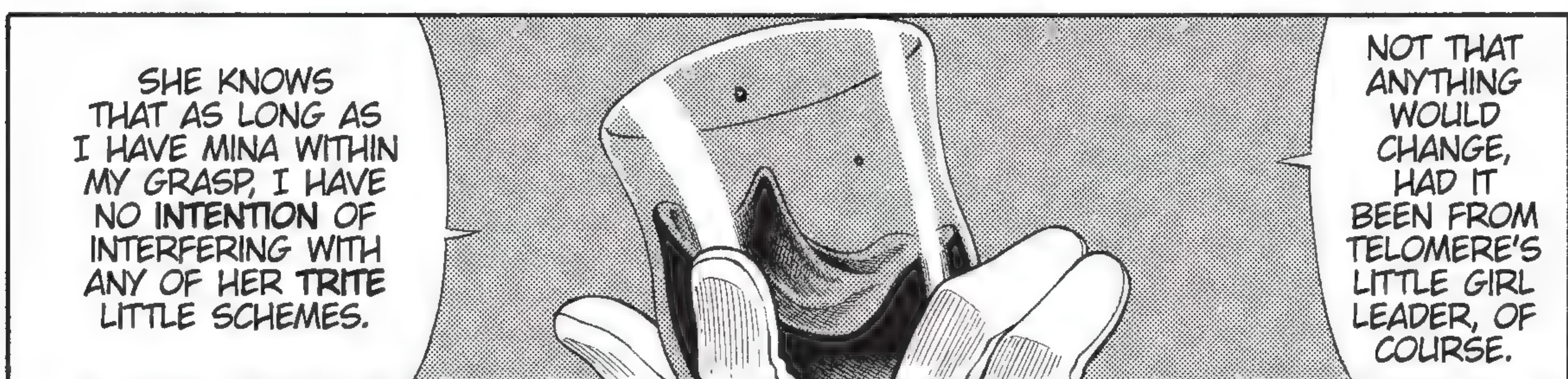
ESPE-
CIALLY
BECAUSE
OF
THAT.

EVEN
THOUGH
SHE IS
NOT THE
TRUE
ONE?

HE IS
PHYSICALLY
INCAPABLE
OF
HARMING
MINA.

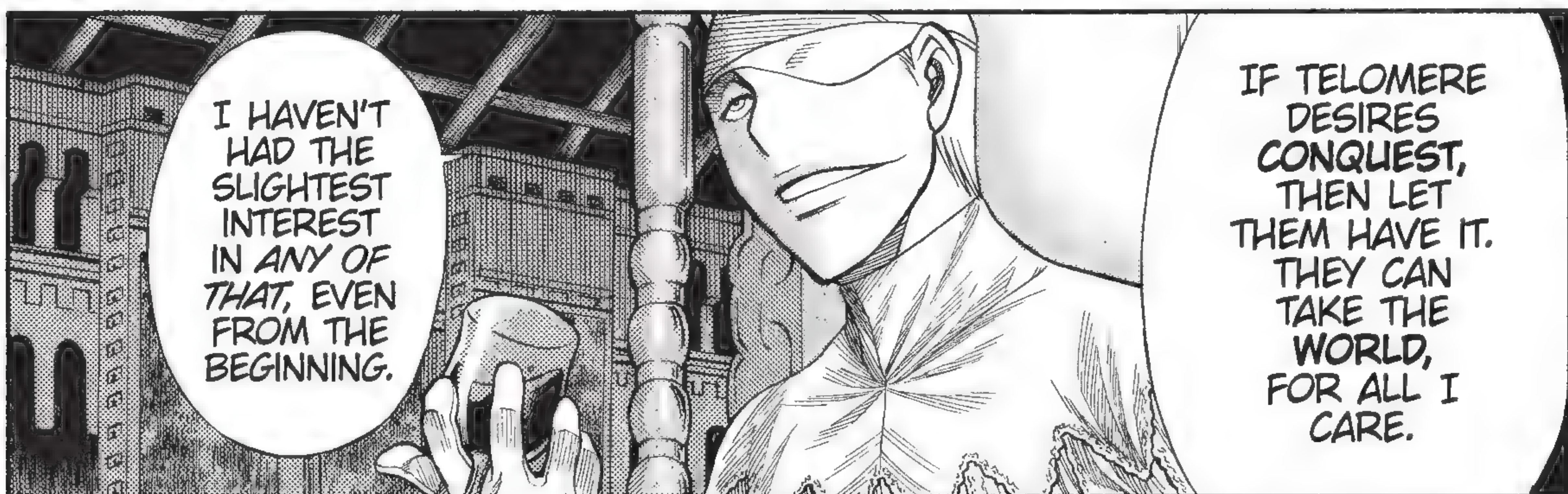
AHH,
AL-
PHONSE
...

IN THAT
CASE, WE
NEEDN'T
WORRY
ABOUT A
THING.



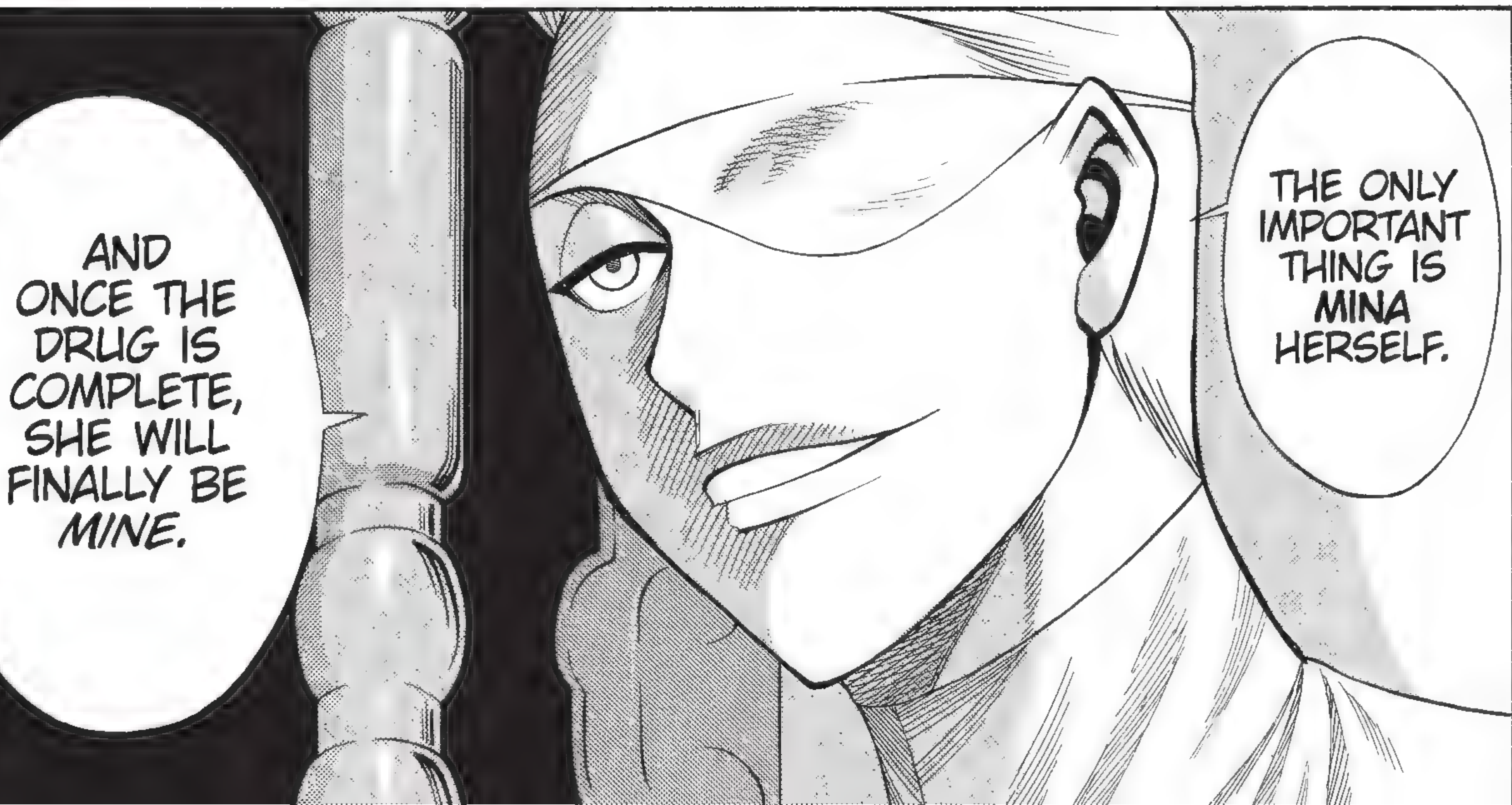
SHE KNOWS
THAT AS LONG AS
I HAVE MINA WITHIN
MY GRASP, I HAVE
NO INTENTION OF
INTERFERING WITH
ANY OF HER TRITE
LITTLE SCHEMES.

NOT THAT
ANYTHING
WOULD
CHANGE,
HAD IT
BEEN FROM
TELOMERE'S
LITTLE GIRL
LEADER, OF
COURSE.



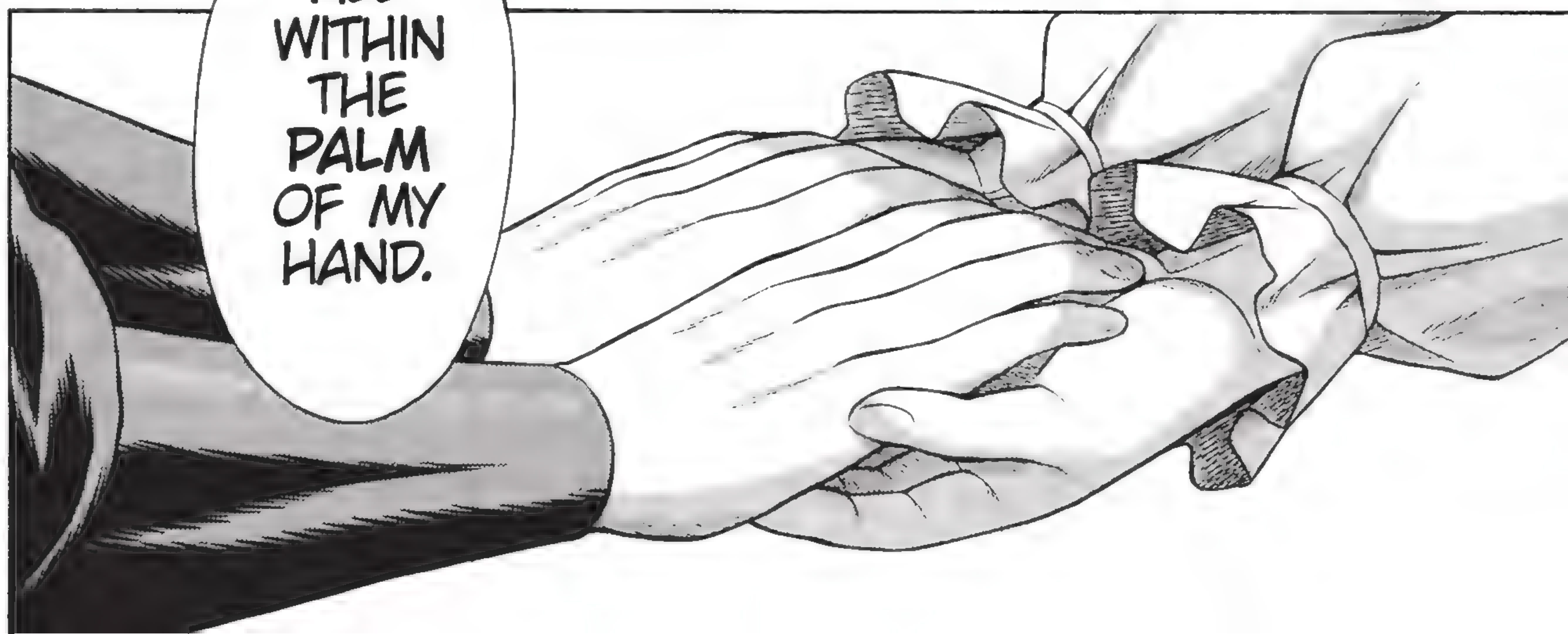
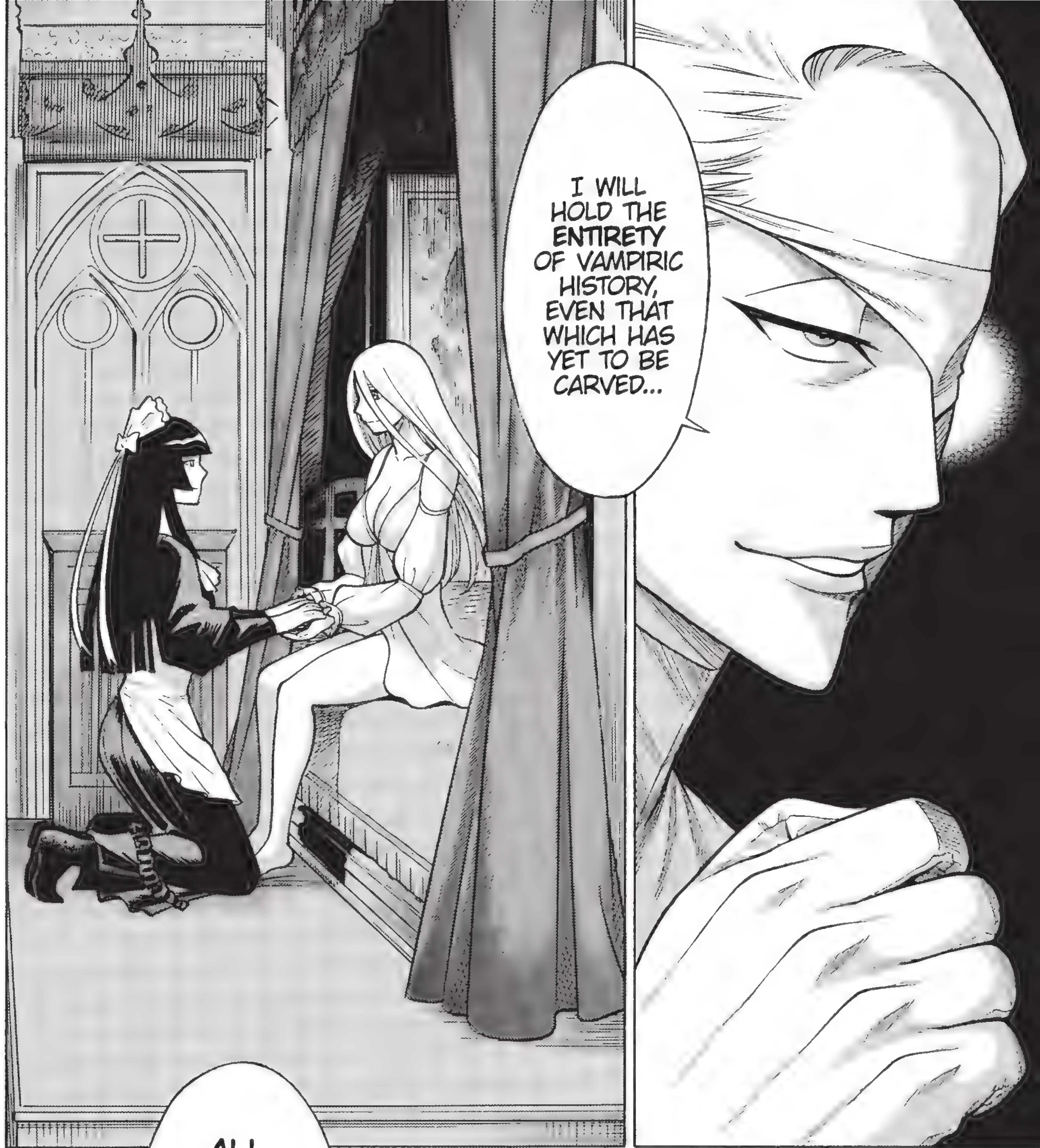
I HAVEN'T
HAD THE
SLIGHTEST
INTEREST
IN ANY OF
THAT, EVEN
FROM THE
BEGINNING.

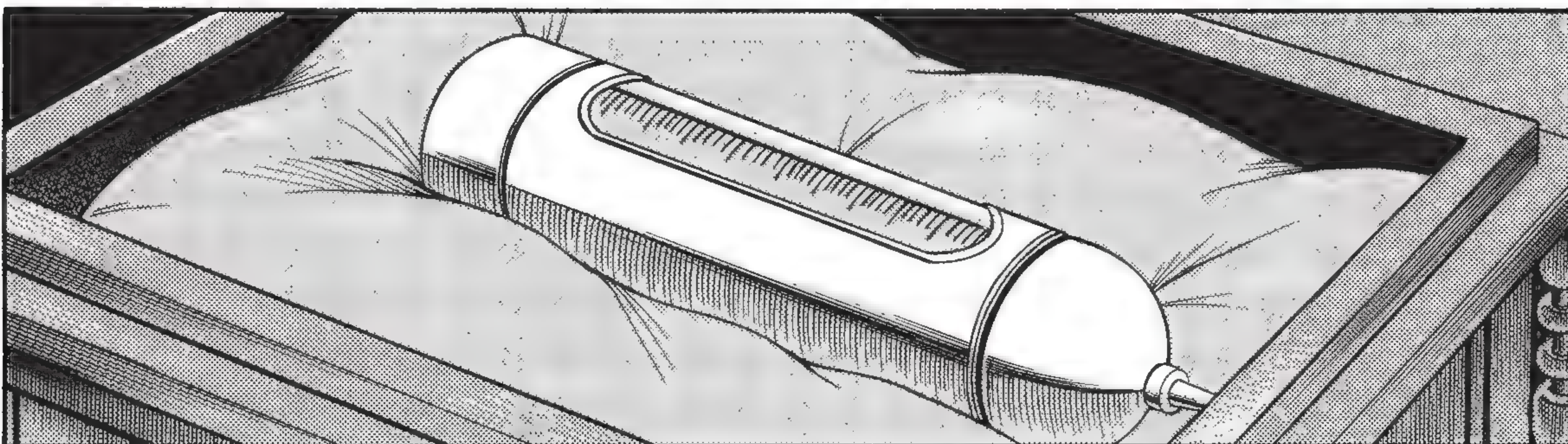
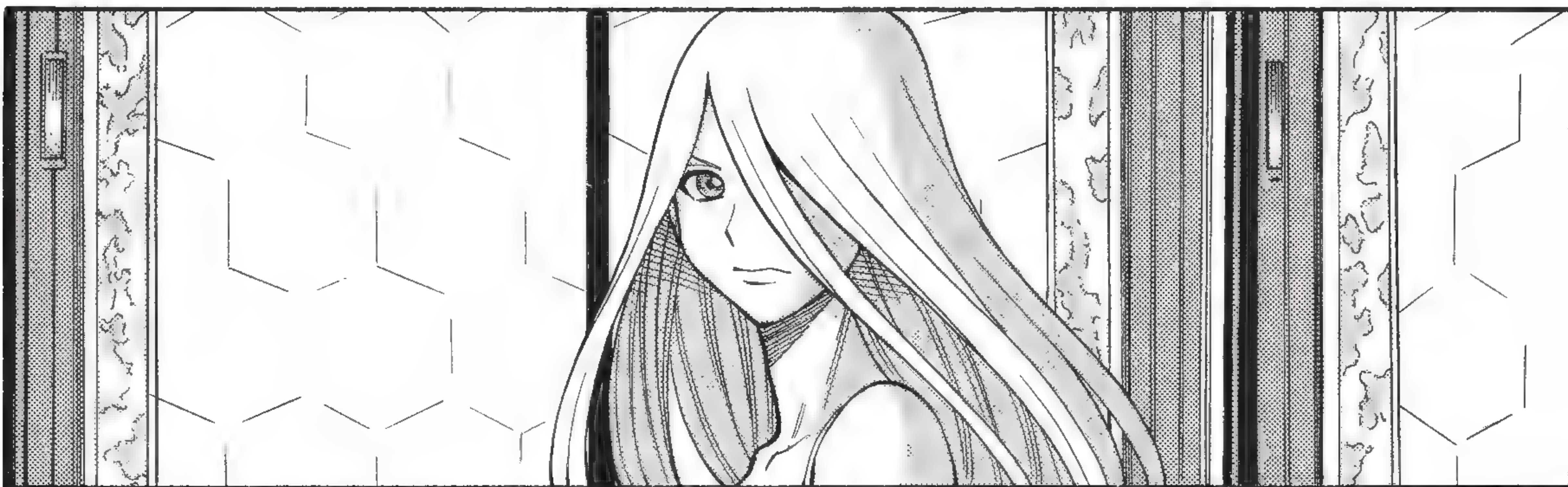
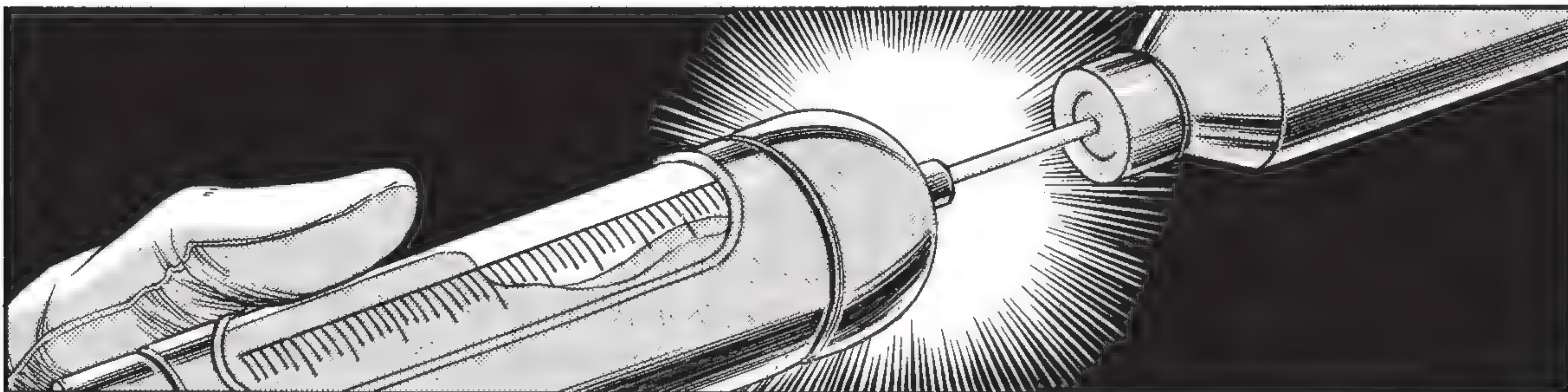
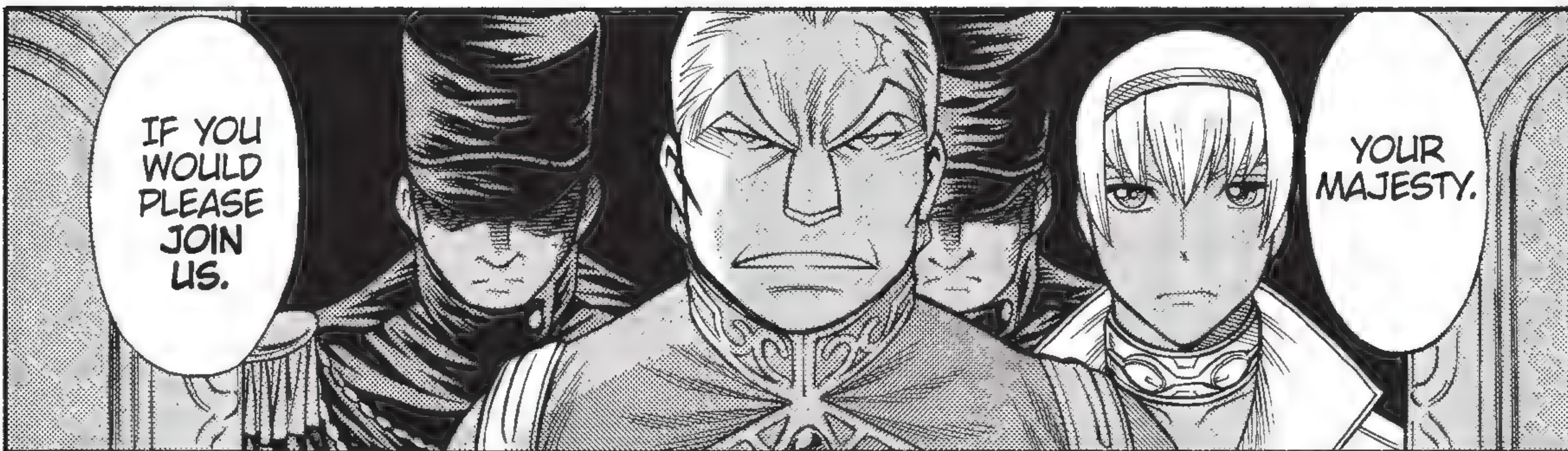
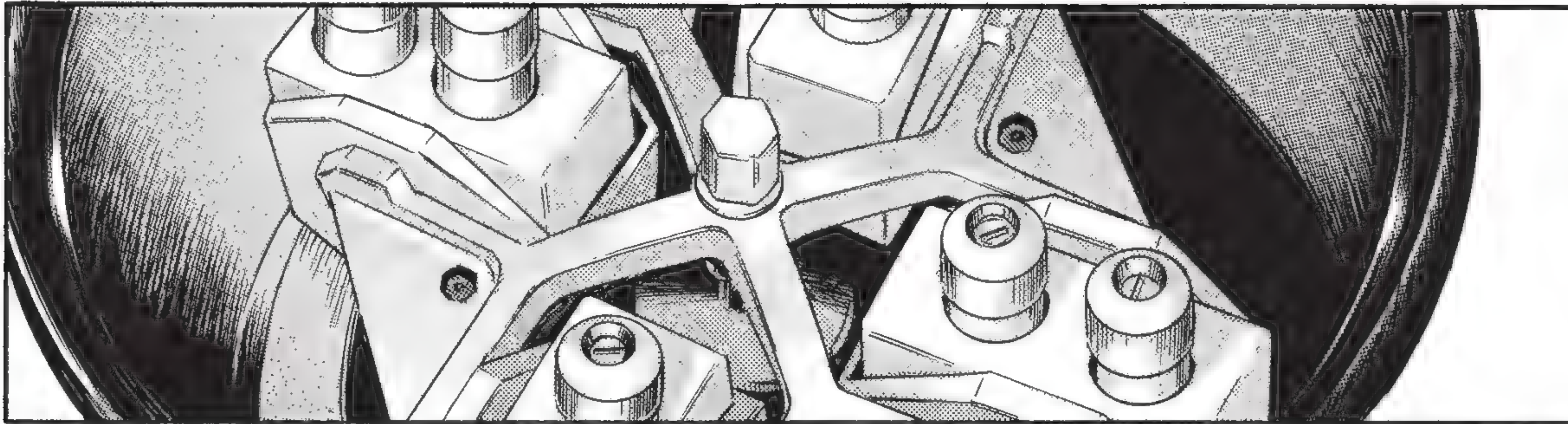
IF TELOMERE
DESIRES
CONQUEST,
THEN LET
THEM HAVE IT.
THEY CAN
TAKE THE
WORLD,
FOR ALL I
CARE.



AND
ONCE THE
DRUG IS
COMPLETE,
SHE WILL
FINALLY BE
MINE.

THE ONLY
IMPORTANT
THING IS
MINA
HERSELF.





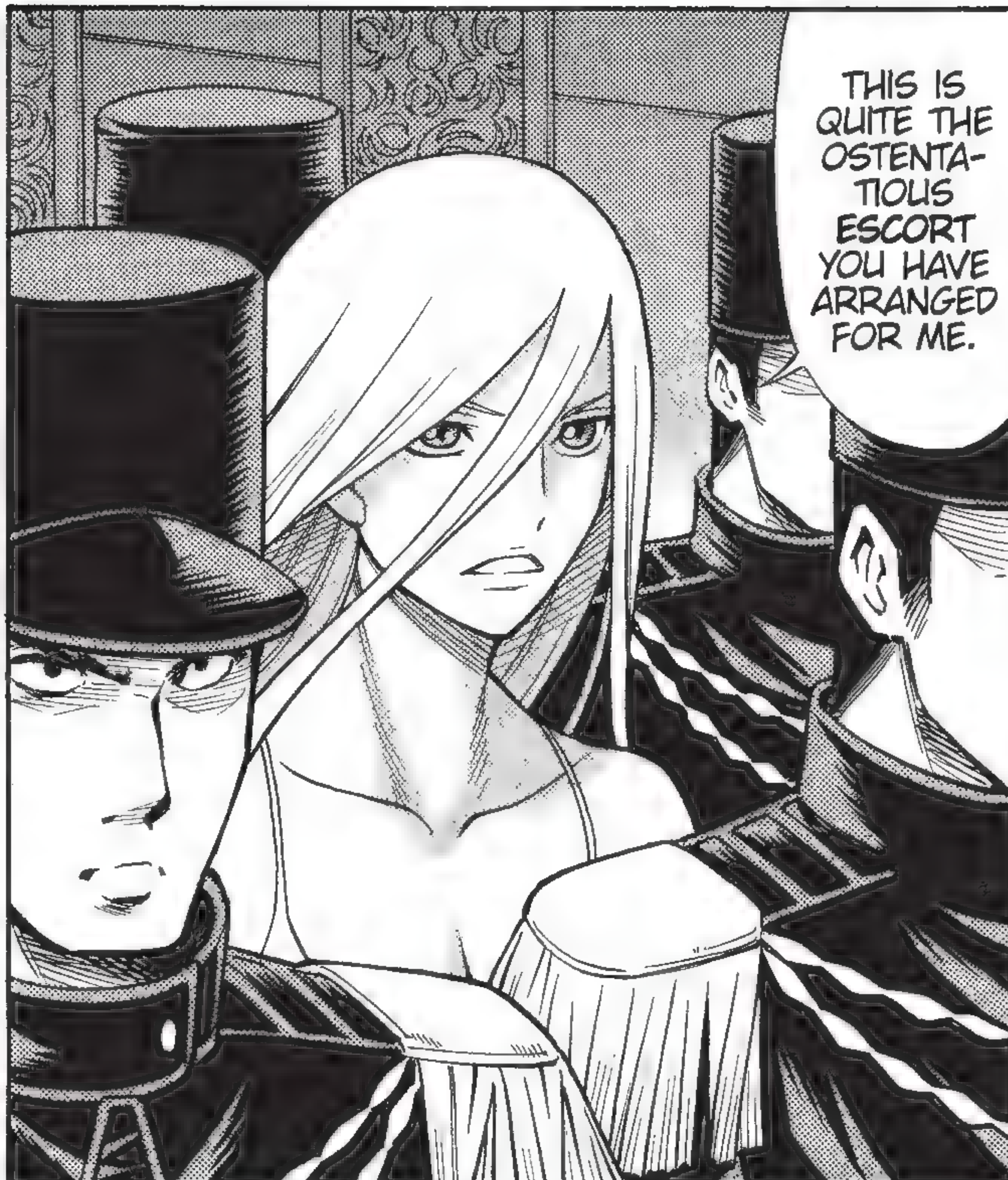


Chapter 68: For You, A Thousand Times

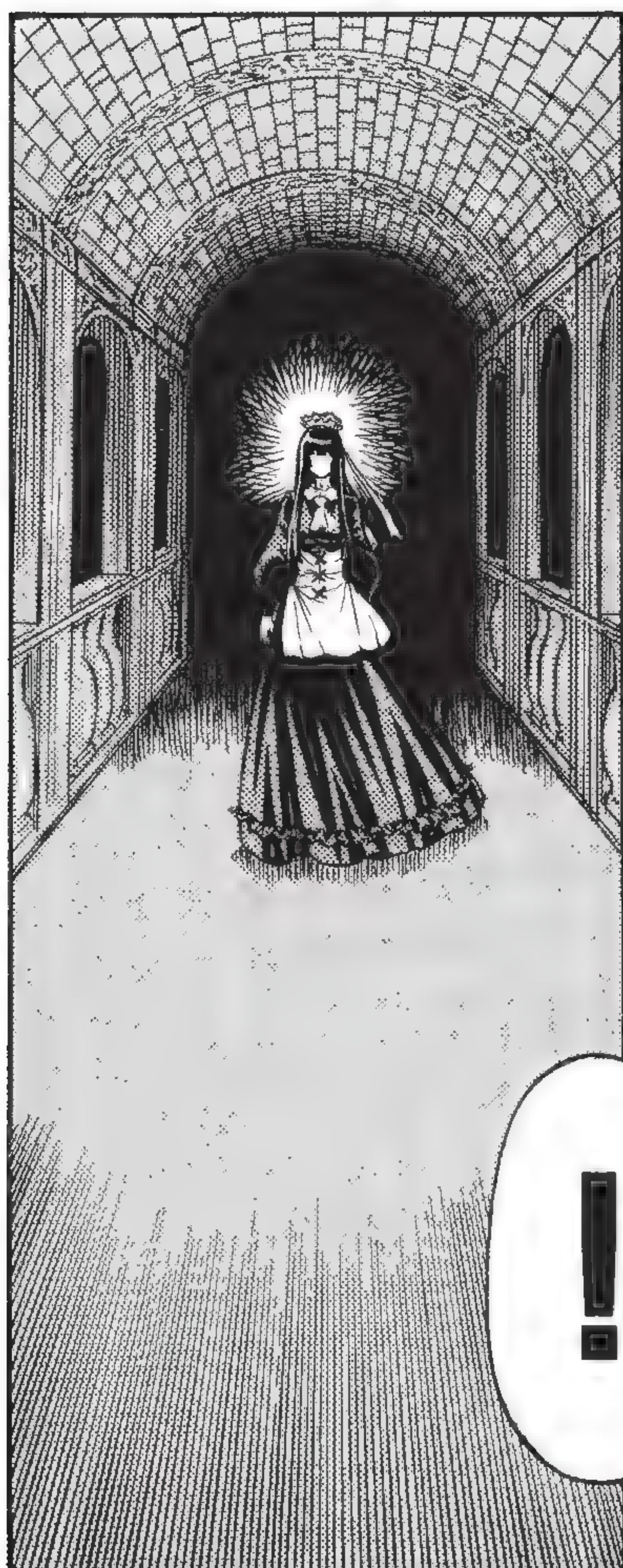


.....

THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS OF... GHOSTS ABOUT THE CASTLE AS OF LATE, YOUR MAJESTY.



THIS IS QUITE THE OSTENTATIOUS ESCORT YOU HAVE ARRANGED FOR ME.



WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE? ARE THEY WHITE AND TRANSPARENT? OR PERHAPS THEY ARE DRESSED AS A MAID?



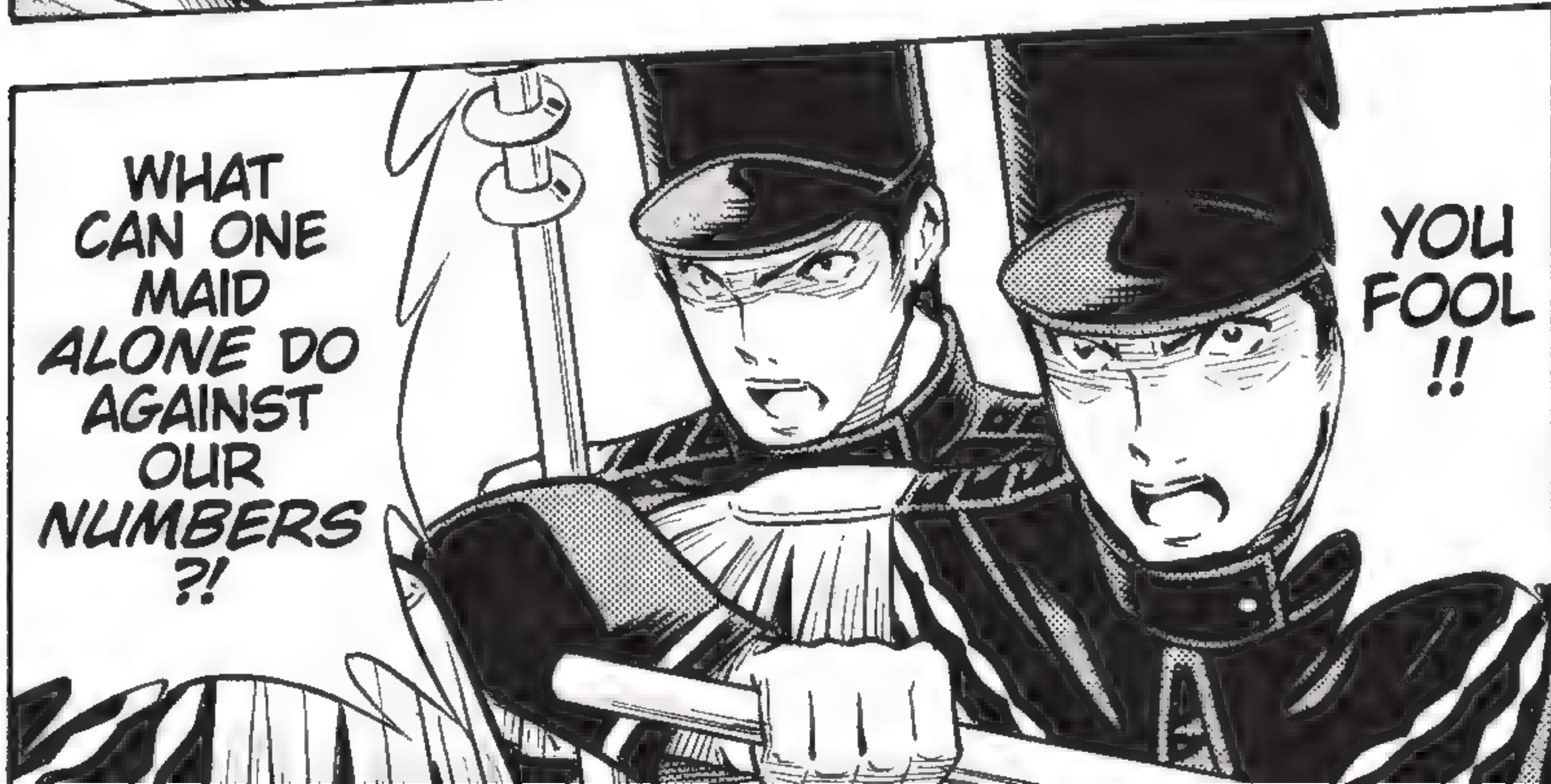
MY, MY! GHOSTS THAT CAN FRIGHTEN EVEN AN IMMORTAL VAMPIRE?

I THINK I SHOULD LIKE TO MEET ONE OF THOSE.



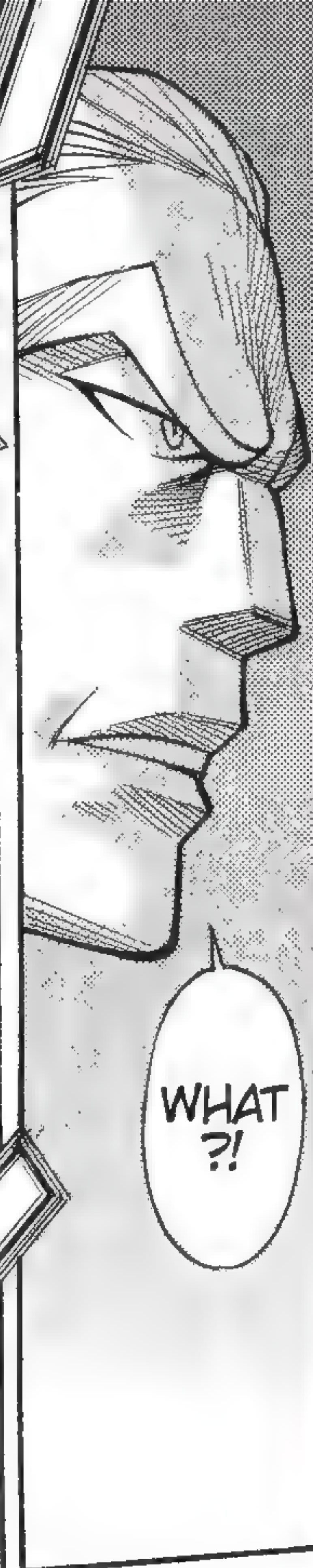
IT
SEEMS
YOU
WERE
CORRECT.

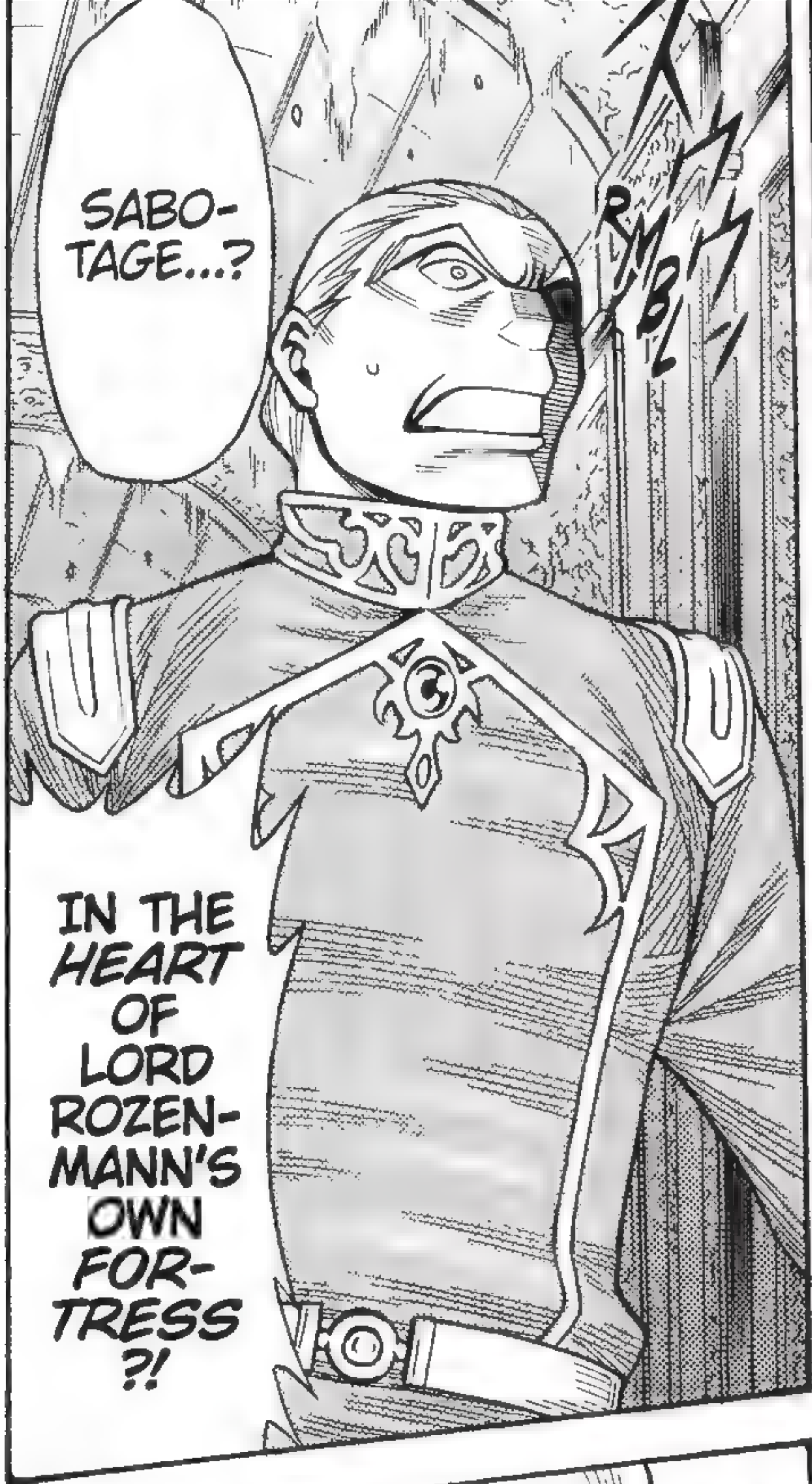
WE'LL
READ,
ANGEL.
YOU SAID IF
SOMETHING
WERE
TO HAPPEN
TO THE
PRINCESS,
SHE WOULD
APPEAR.



WHAT
CAN ONE
MAID
ALONE DO
AGAINST
OUR
NUMBERS
?!

YOU
FOOL
!!



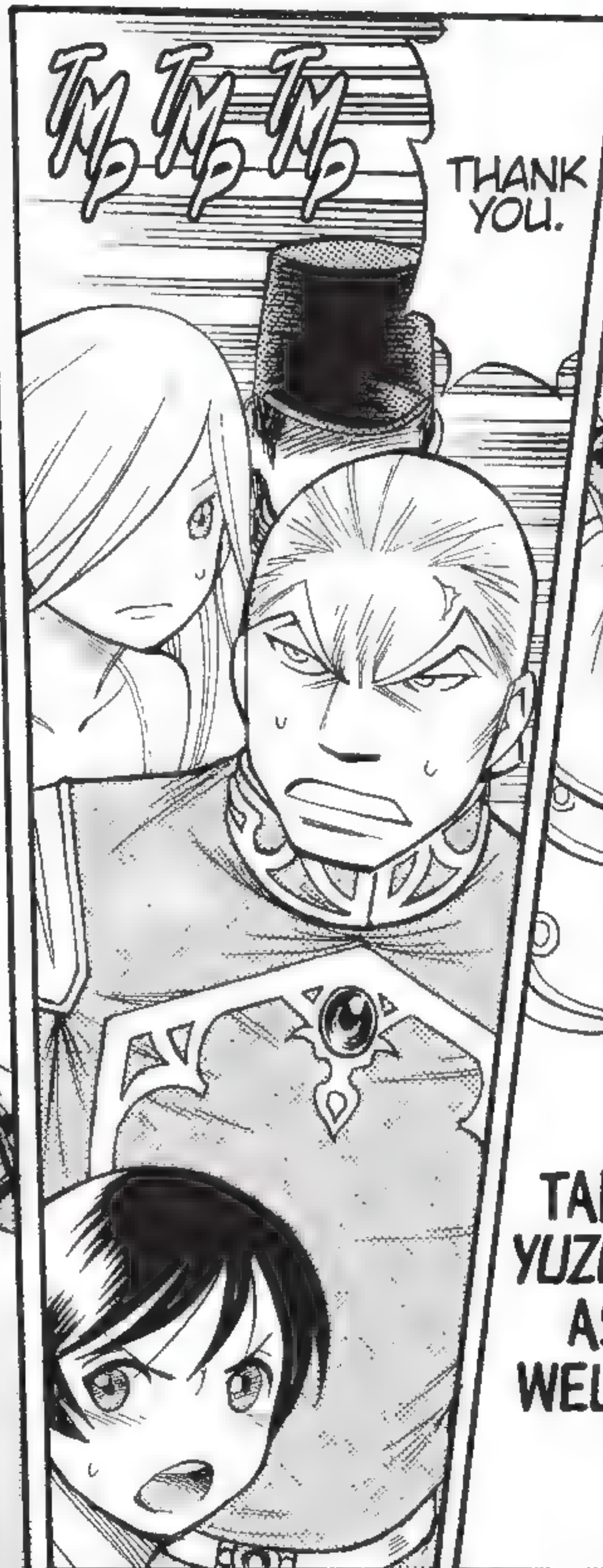




SHE
DOESN'T
MOVE
LIKE A
VAMPIRE
AT ALL!!



SORRY...

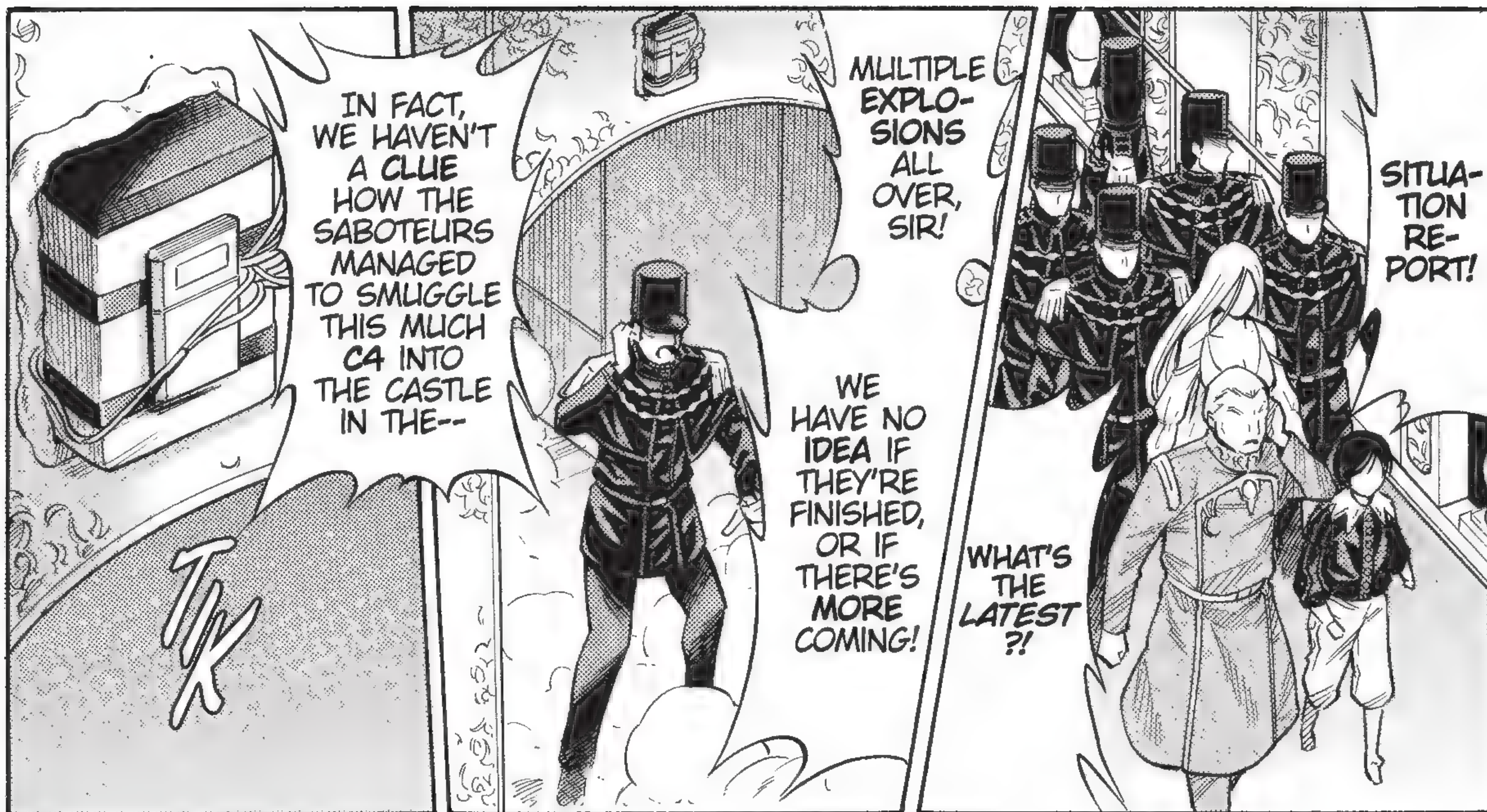


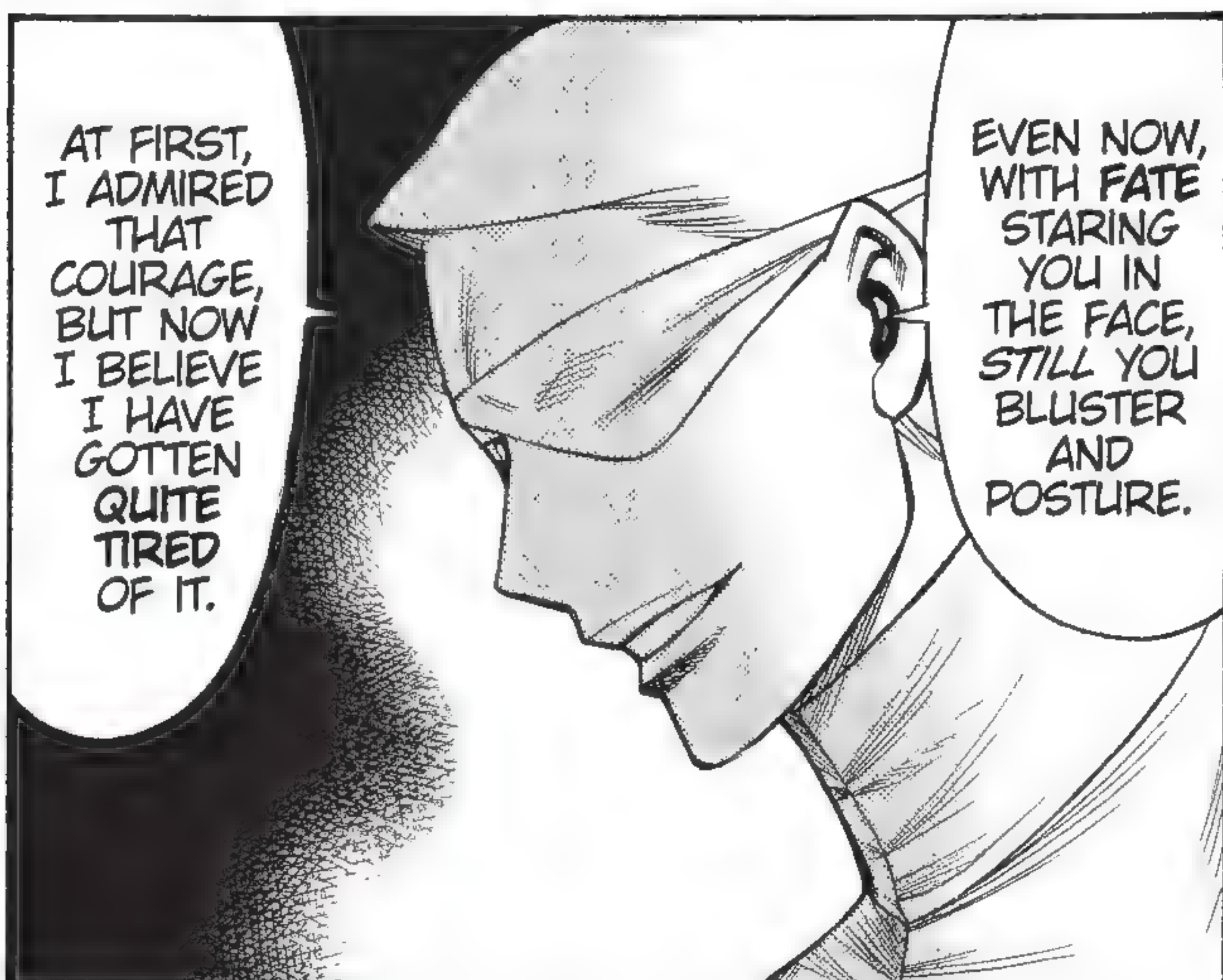
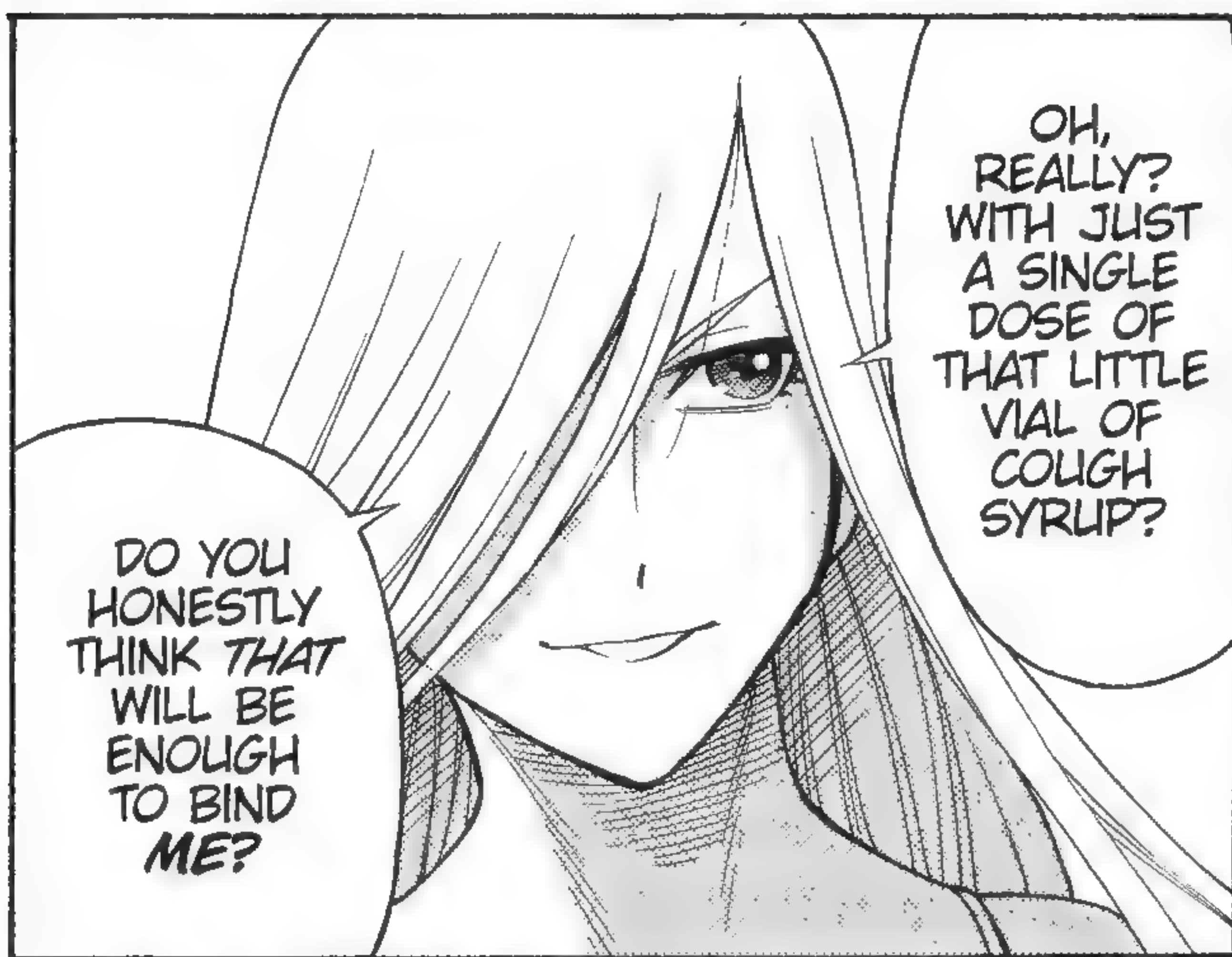
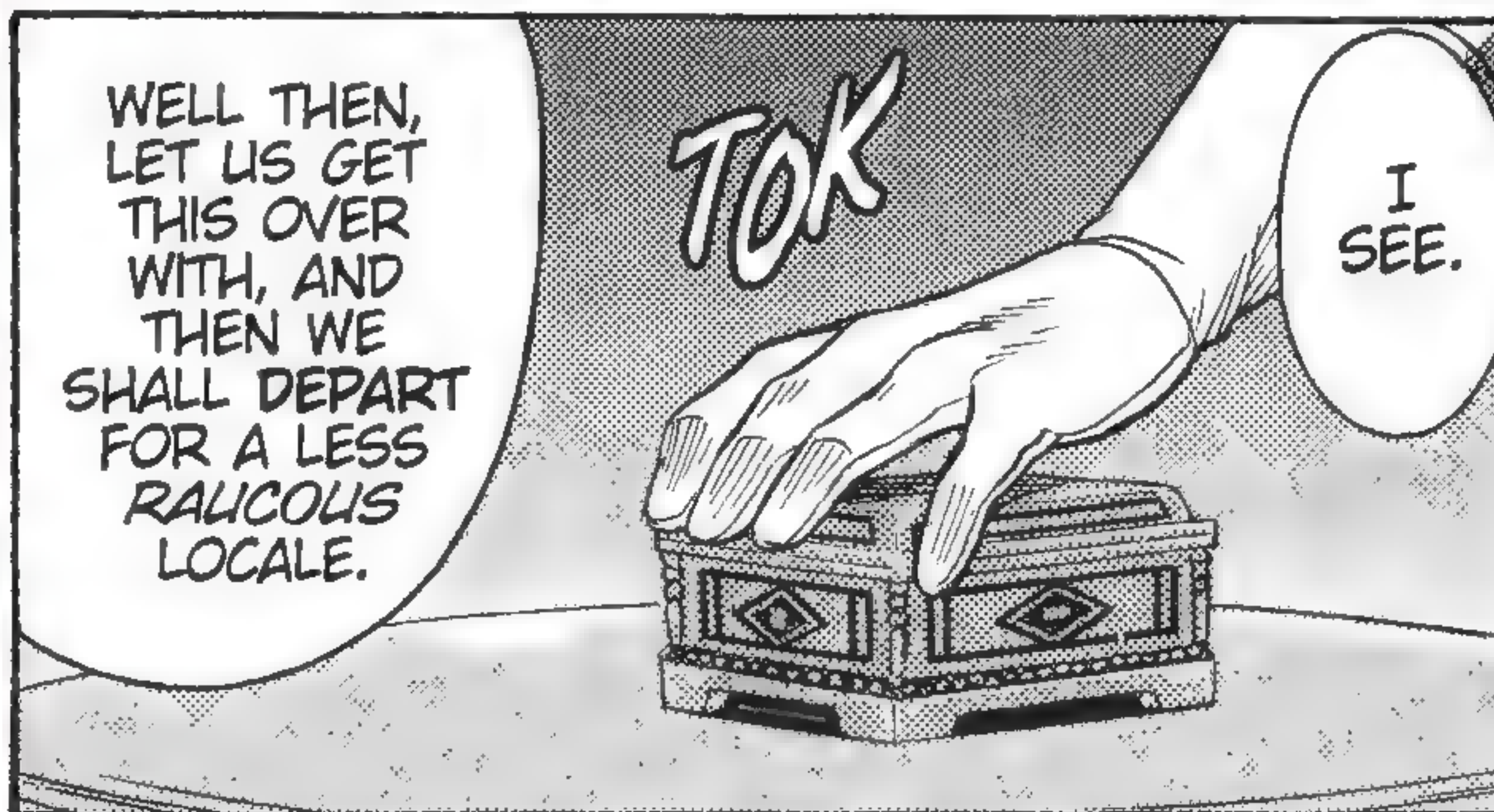
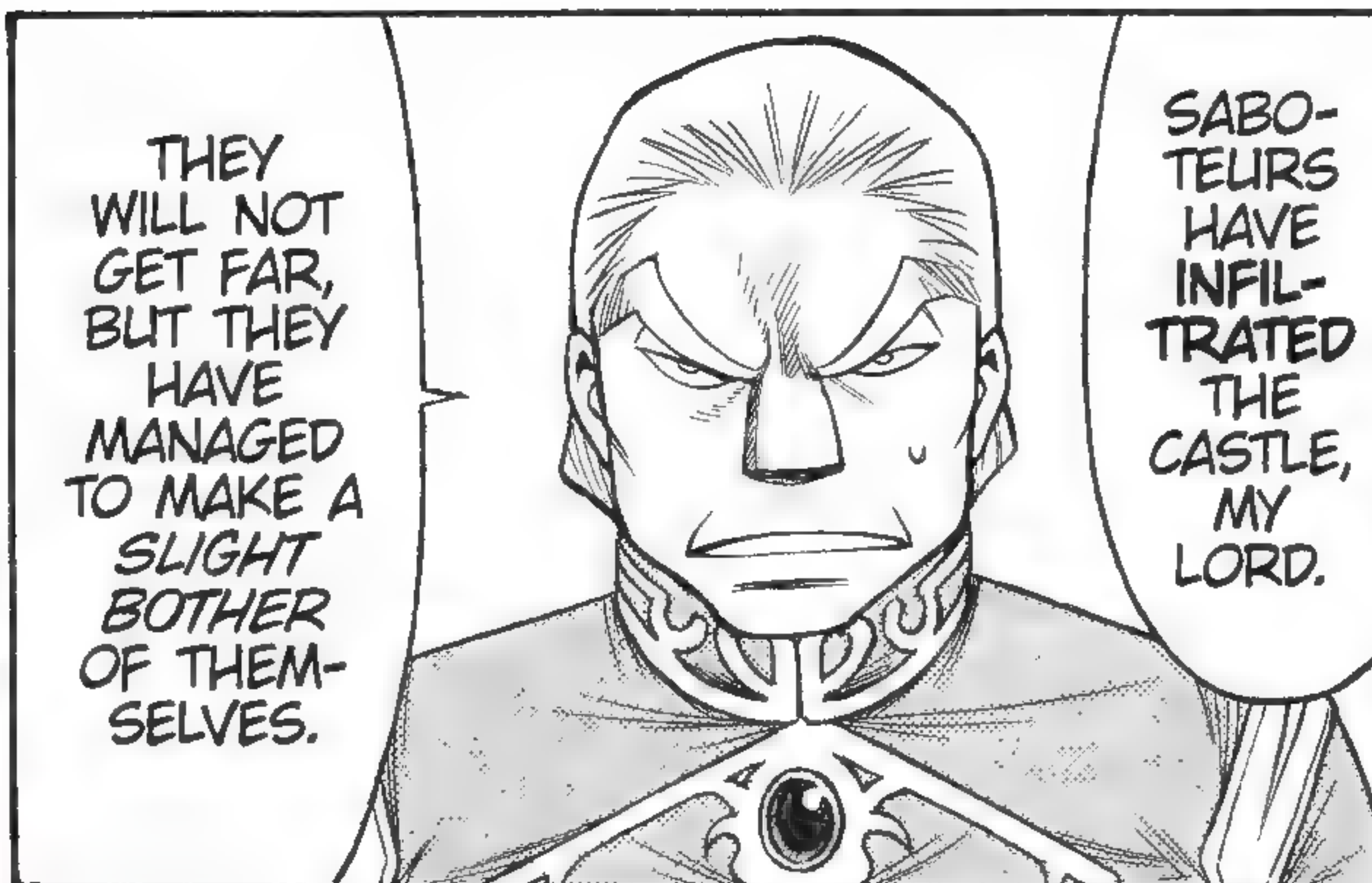
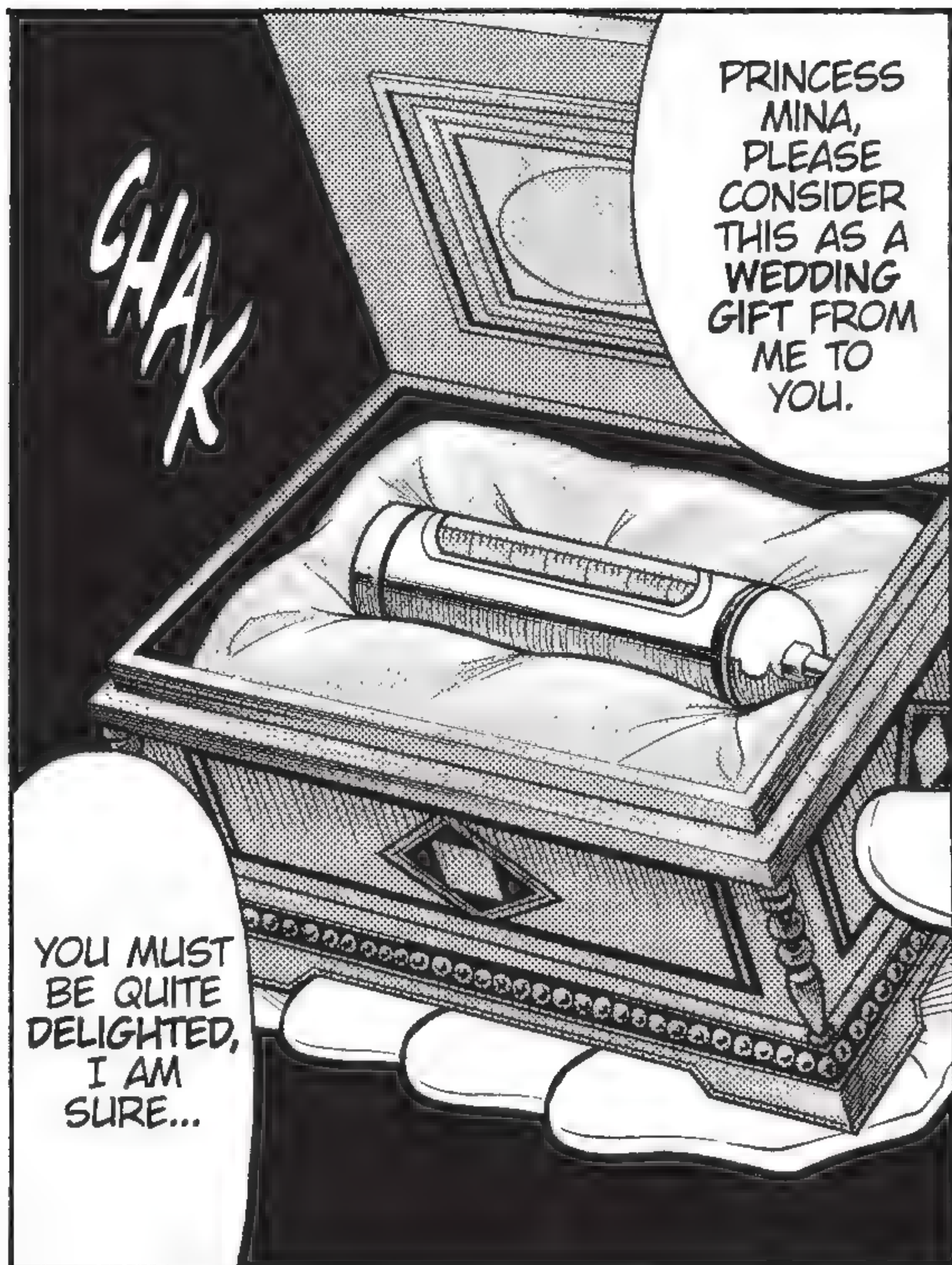
THANK
YOU.

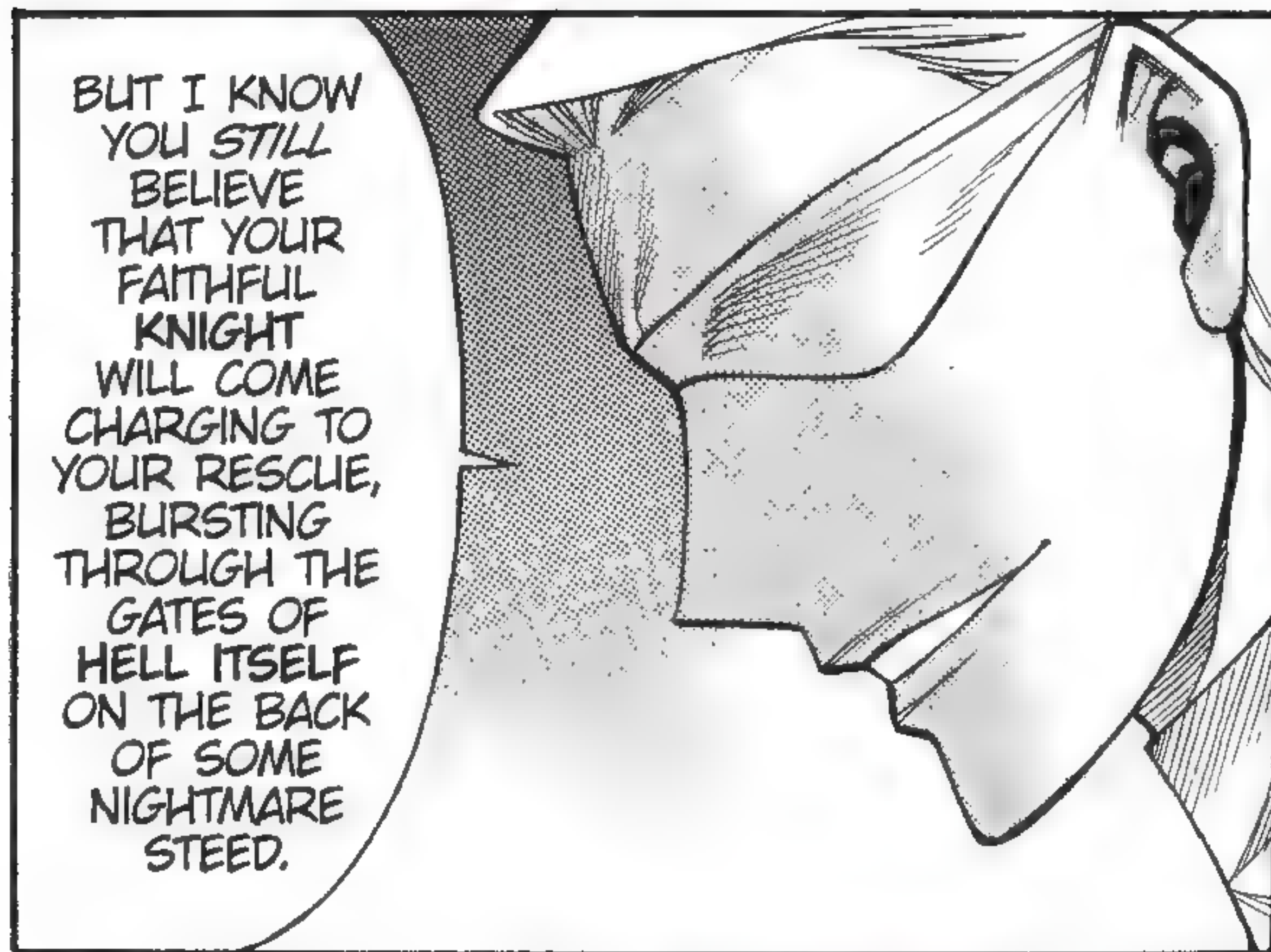
TAKE
YUZURU
AS
WELL!!



SIR
GERHART,
TAKE THE
PRINCESS
TO LORD
ROZEN-
MANN!!





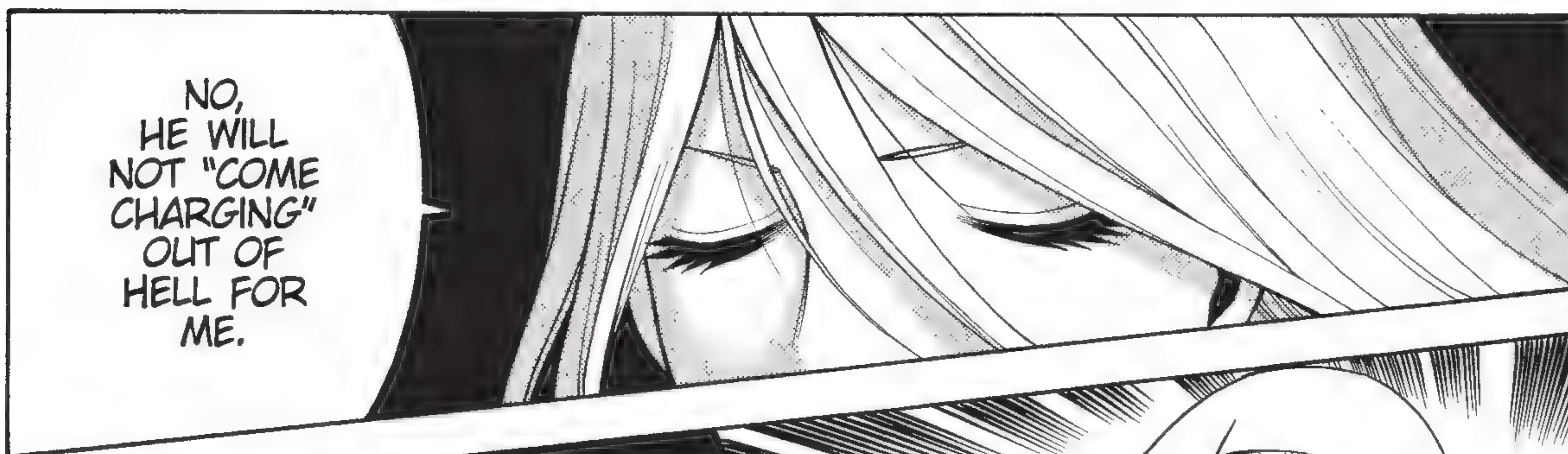


BUT I KNOW
YOU STILL
BELIEVE
THAT YOUR
FAITHFUL
KNIGHT
WILL COME
CHARGING TO
YOUR RESCUE,
BURSTING
THROUGH THE
GATES OF
HELL ITSELF
ON THE BACK
OF SOME
NIGHTMARE
STEED.

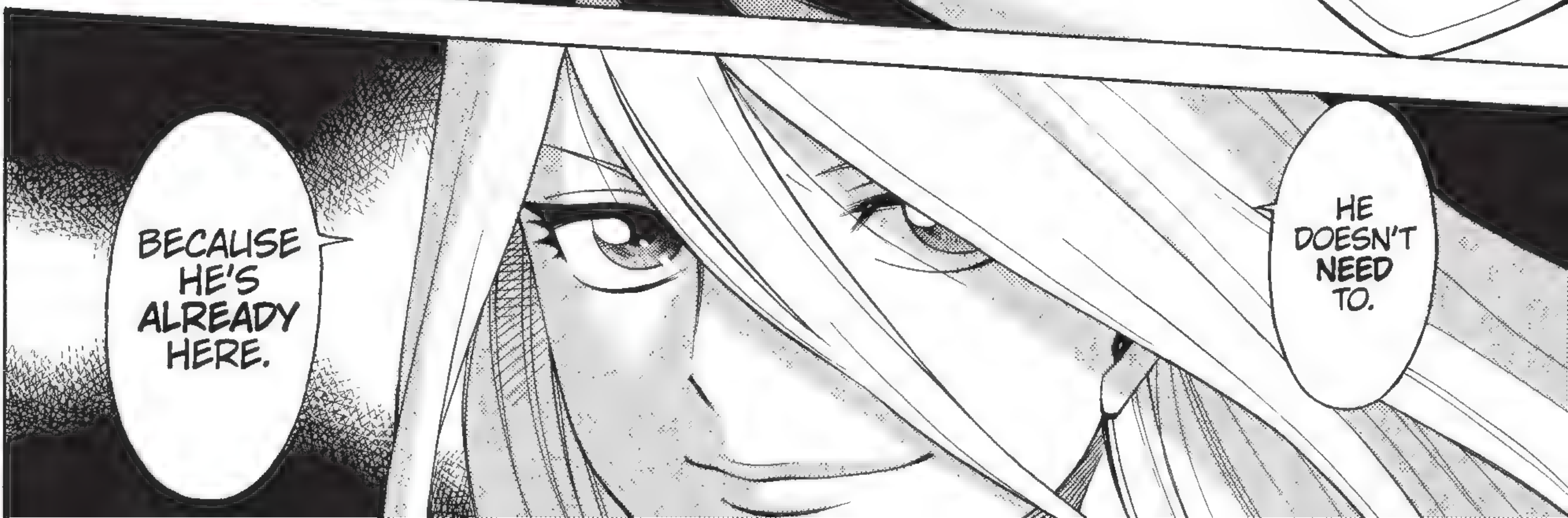
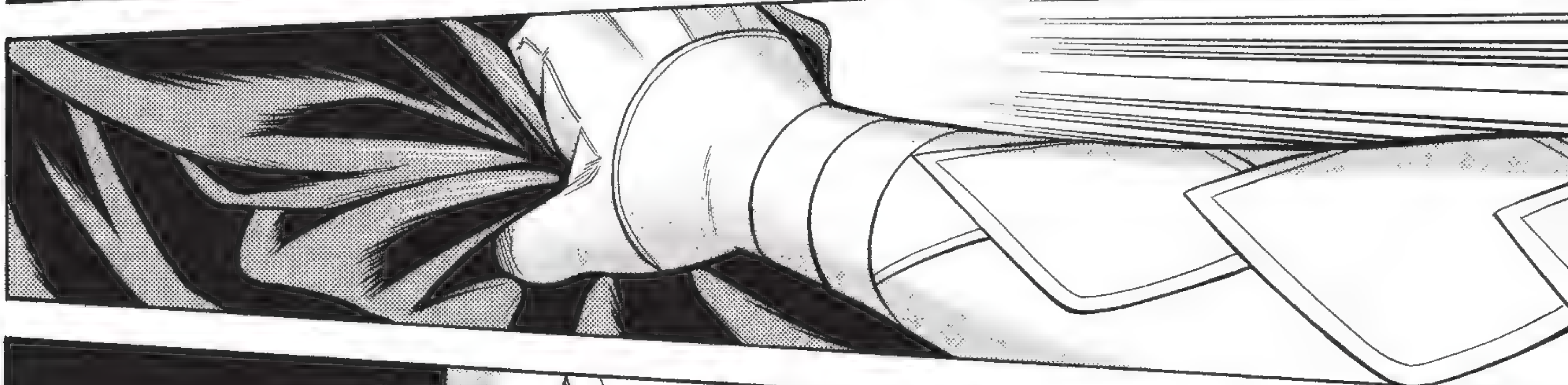
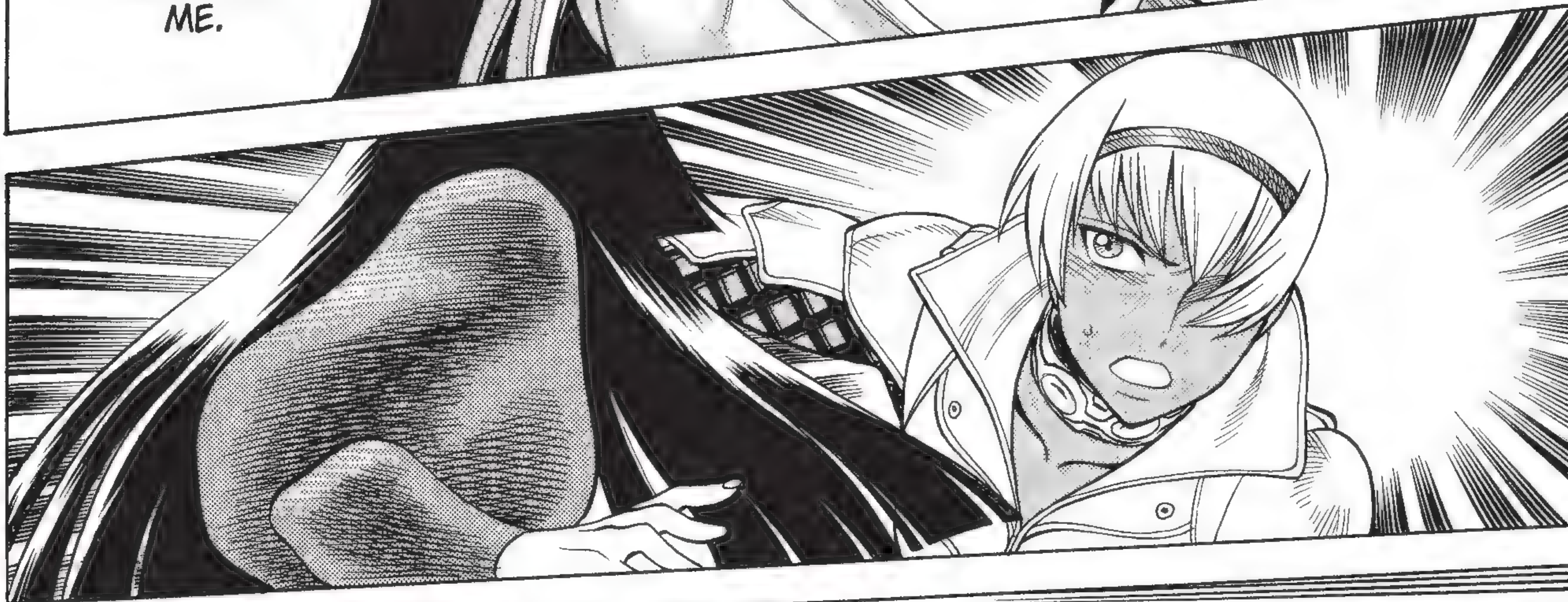


NO,
OF
COURSE
NOT.

DO YOU
THINK A FEW
RUFFIANS
CREATING AN
UPROAR IN
MY CASTLE
WILL MAKE
IT HERE IN
TIME TO
SAVE YOU?



NO,
HE WILL
NOT "COME
CHARGING"
OUT OF
HELL FOR
ME.

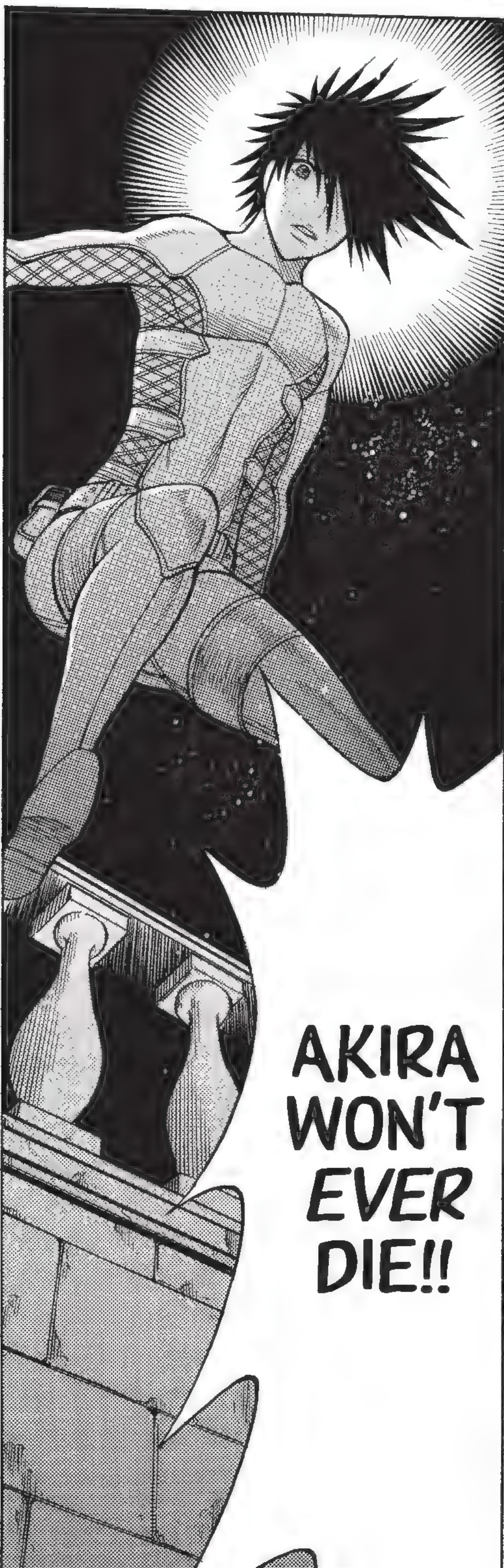


BECAUSE
HE'S
ALREADY
HERE.

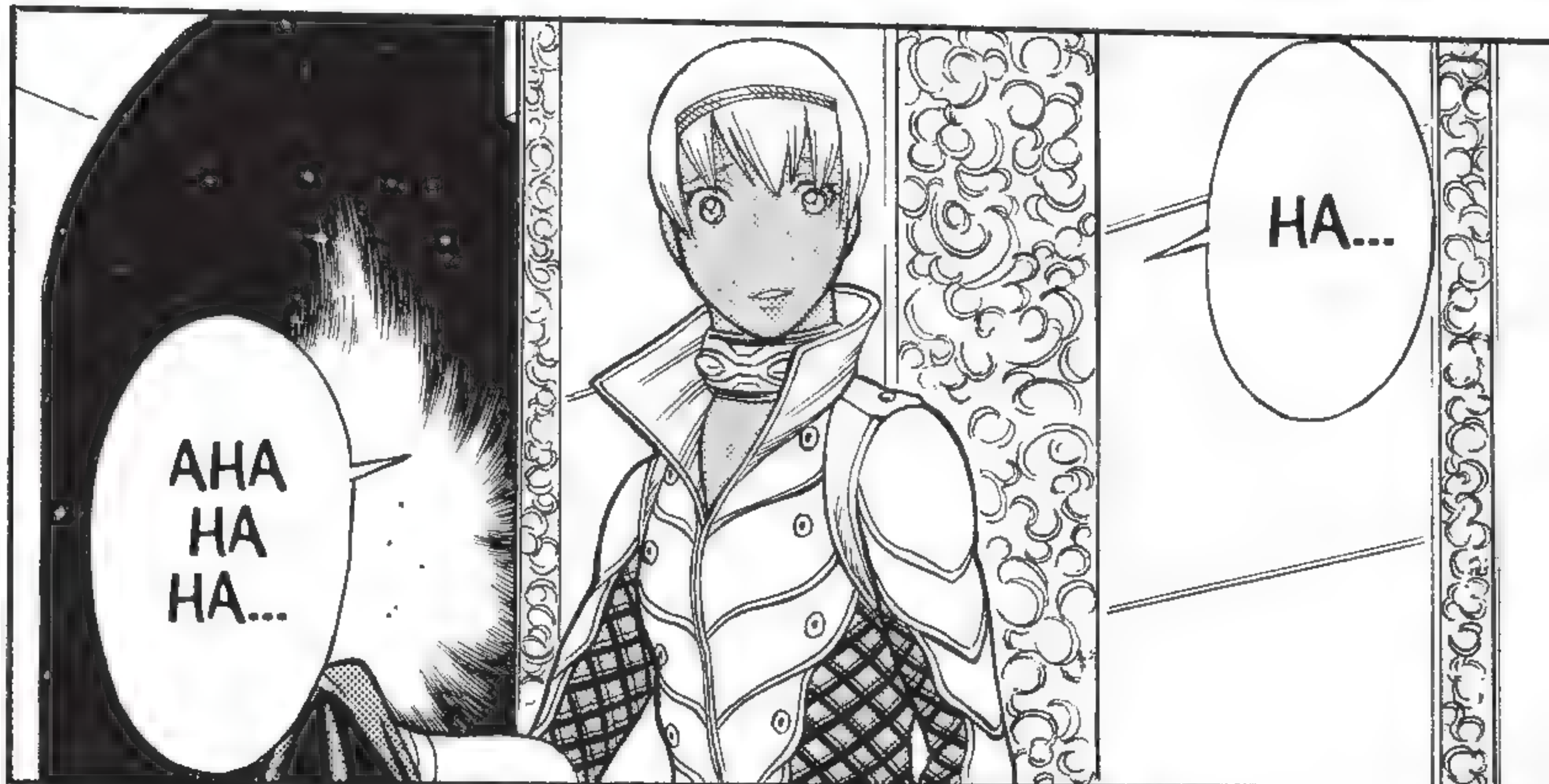
HE
DOESN'T
NEED
TO.



SHRIMP



**AKIRA
WON'T
EVER
DIE!!**



AHA
HA
HA...

HA...



THAT'S
BECAUSE
I KNEW.

HE
COULDN'T
BE
DEAD...

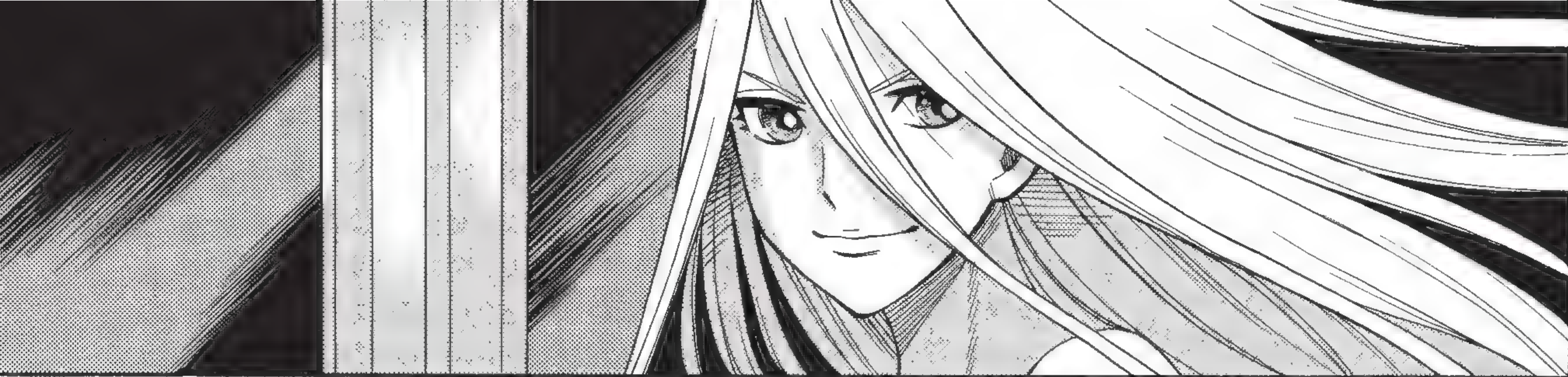
DEEP
DOWN,
I JUST
KNEW.



REMEMBER
WHAT YOU
ASKED
ME,
YUZURU
...?

YOU
WONDERED
HOW I
COULD
BE
OKAY.

HOW I
COULD GO
ON LIVING
JUST FINE
WITHOUT
MY
BELOVED
ONE IN THE
WORLD...



AKIRA-SAN IS ALIVE...?

WHAT --?!

GRAB



THE TRUE GLORY OF OUR HISTORY HAS BEEN BURIED UNDER EMPTY, OSTENTATIOUS SHOW FOR FAR TOO LONG!

I WILL NOT LET HIM HAVE YOU!!

SNATCH!!!

KLATTER

I MUST SET IT BACK UPON ITS RIGHTFUL COURSE !!



YOU
ARE
MINE!

I WILL
NOT
LET HIM
TAKE
YOU!
I WON'T
LET
ANYONE
TAKE
YOU!!

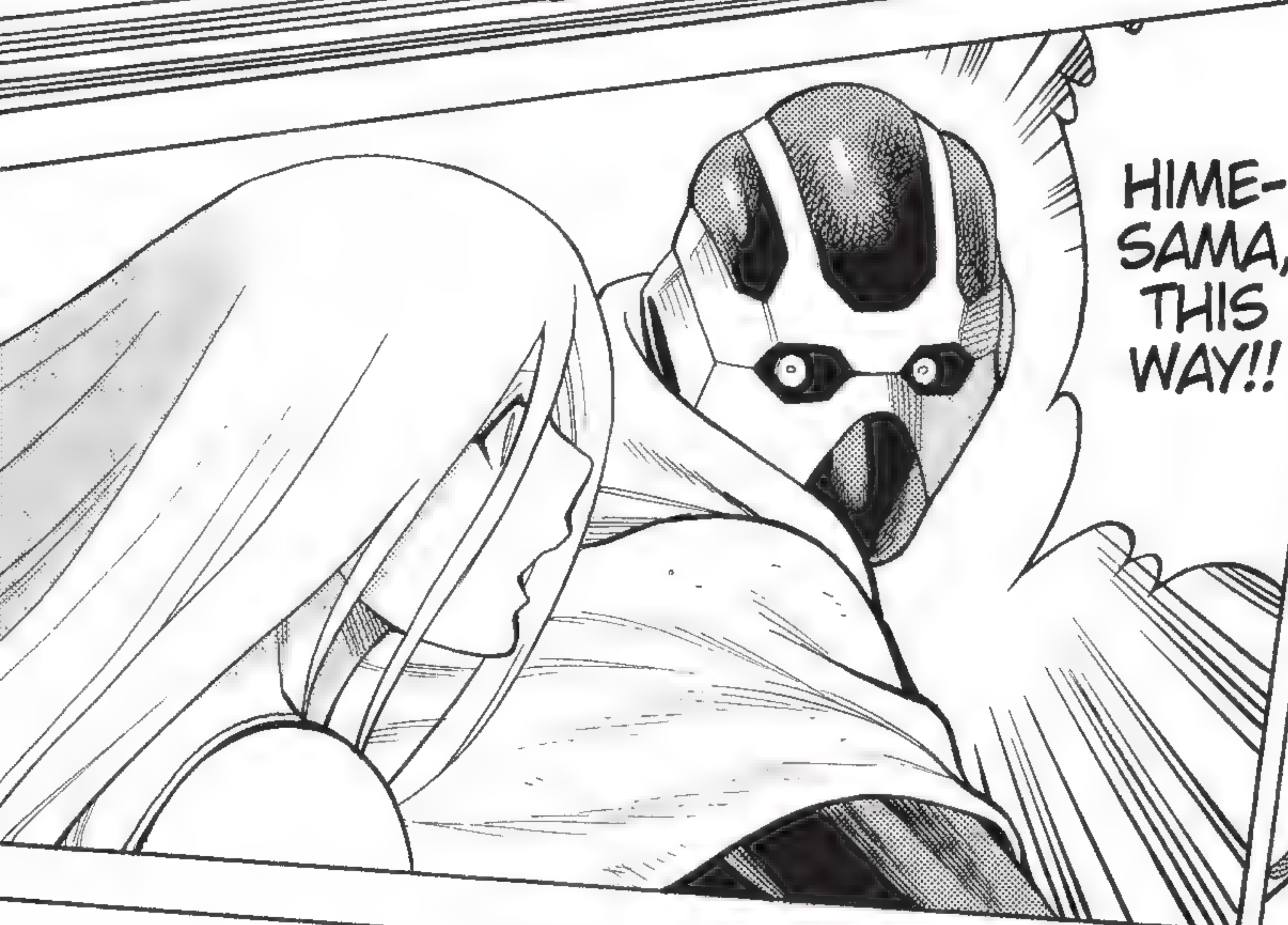
MINE!
YOU
HEAR
ME?!

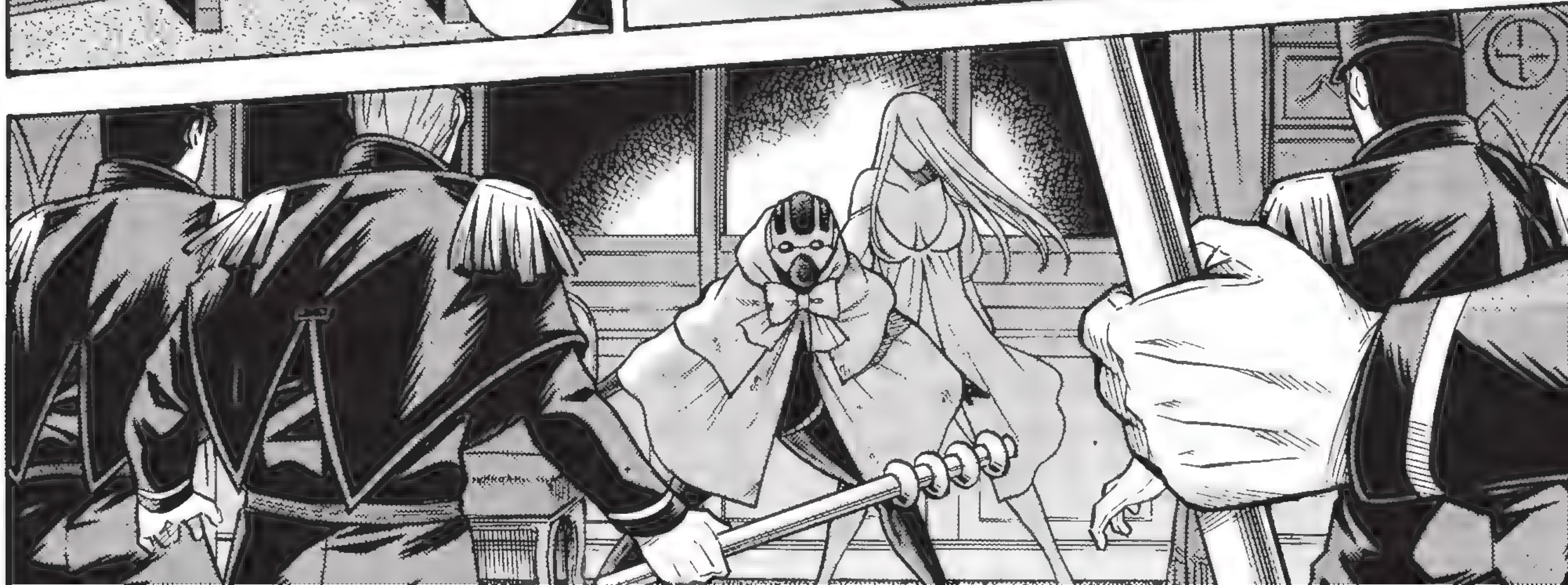
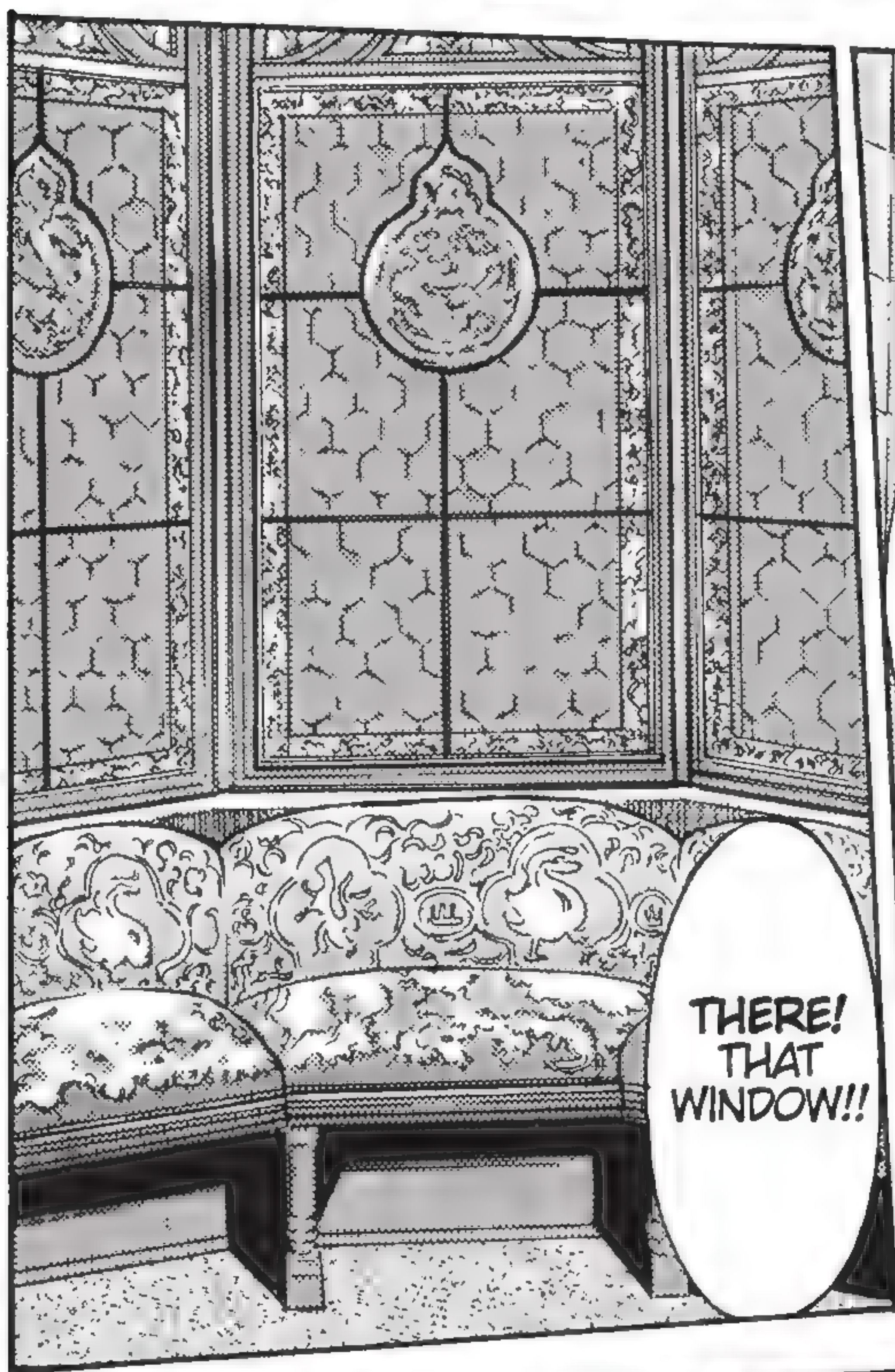
FWIP



PASH!

FWIP







HE
WILL BE
WAITING
FOR
YOU.



ON MY
SIGNAL,
I WANT
YOU TO
JUMP.

HIME-
SAMA...

4.

IT'S
NOT
FAIR...

3.

M
I
N
N
A
A
A
!!!

2.

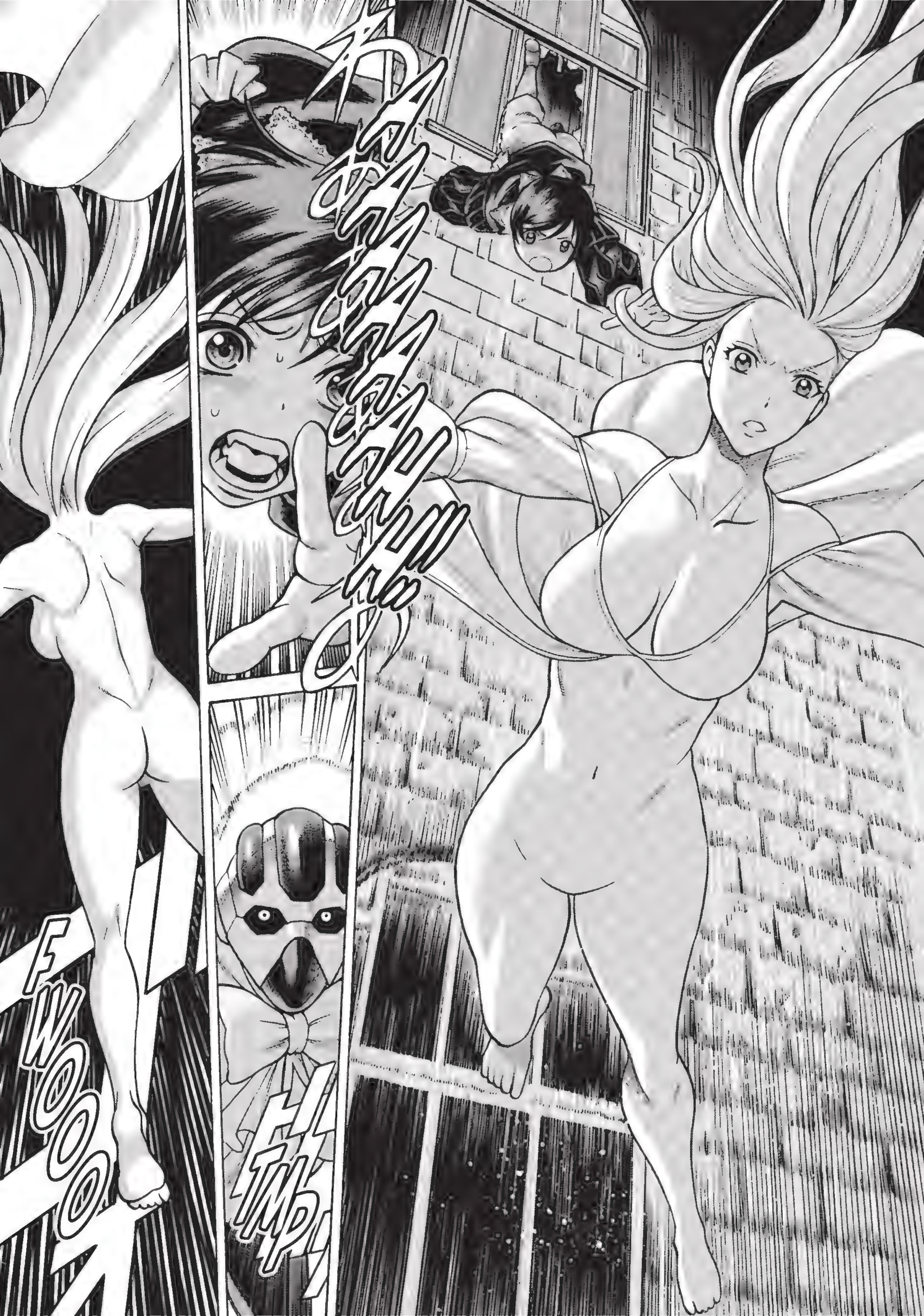
IT'S
NOT
FAIR
AT
ALL.

1.

ALWAYS
HIME-
SAMA.
ALWAYS
JUST
FOR
HER....!

N
O
W
!!

TMP



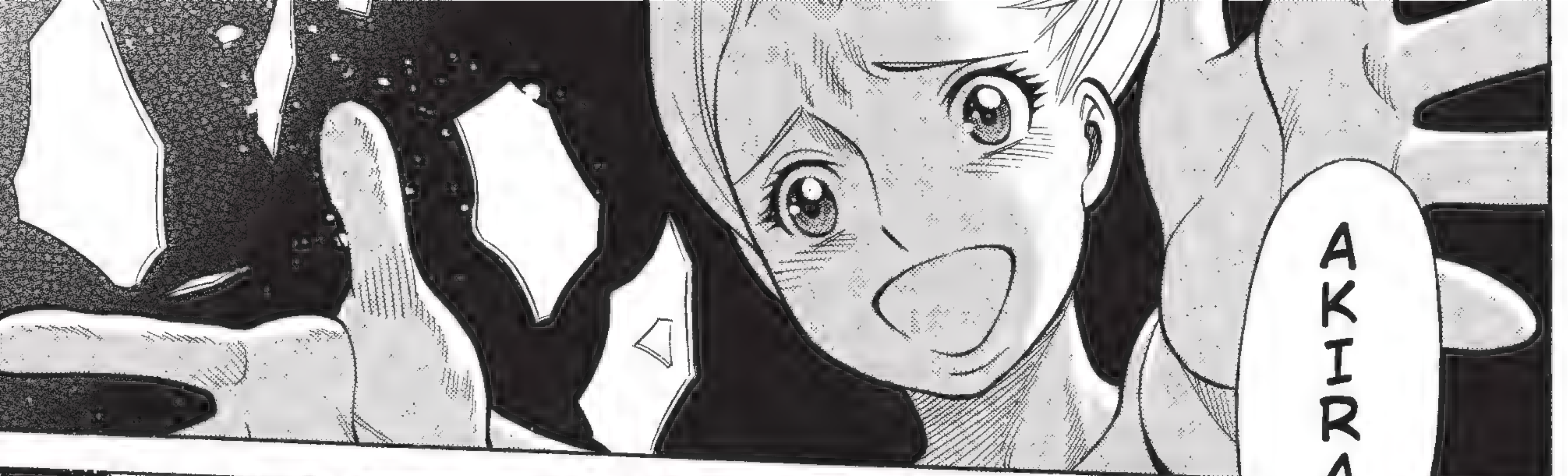
FWOOO

FWOOO

FWOOO



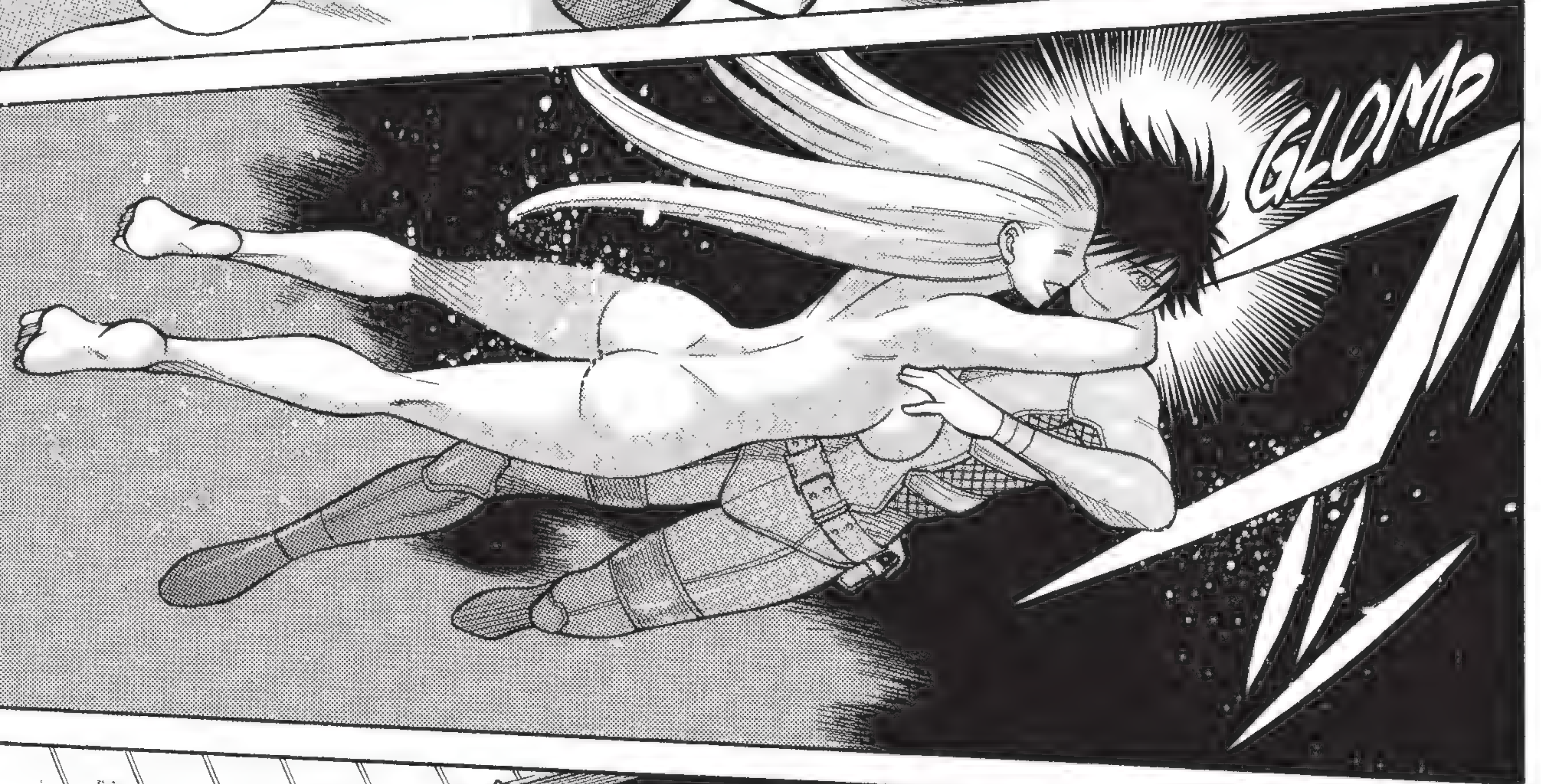
KROOSH



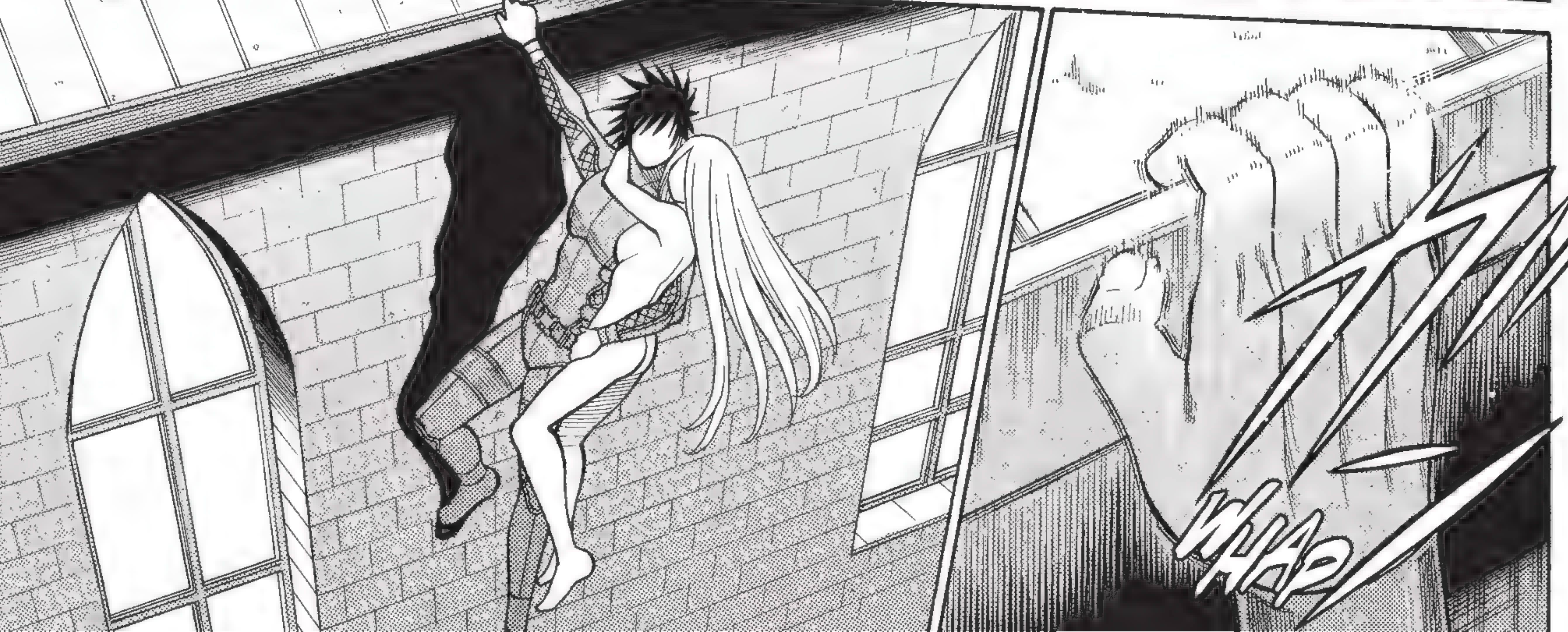
AKIRA!!



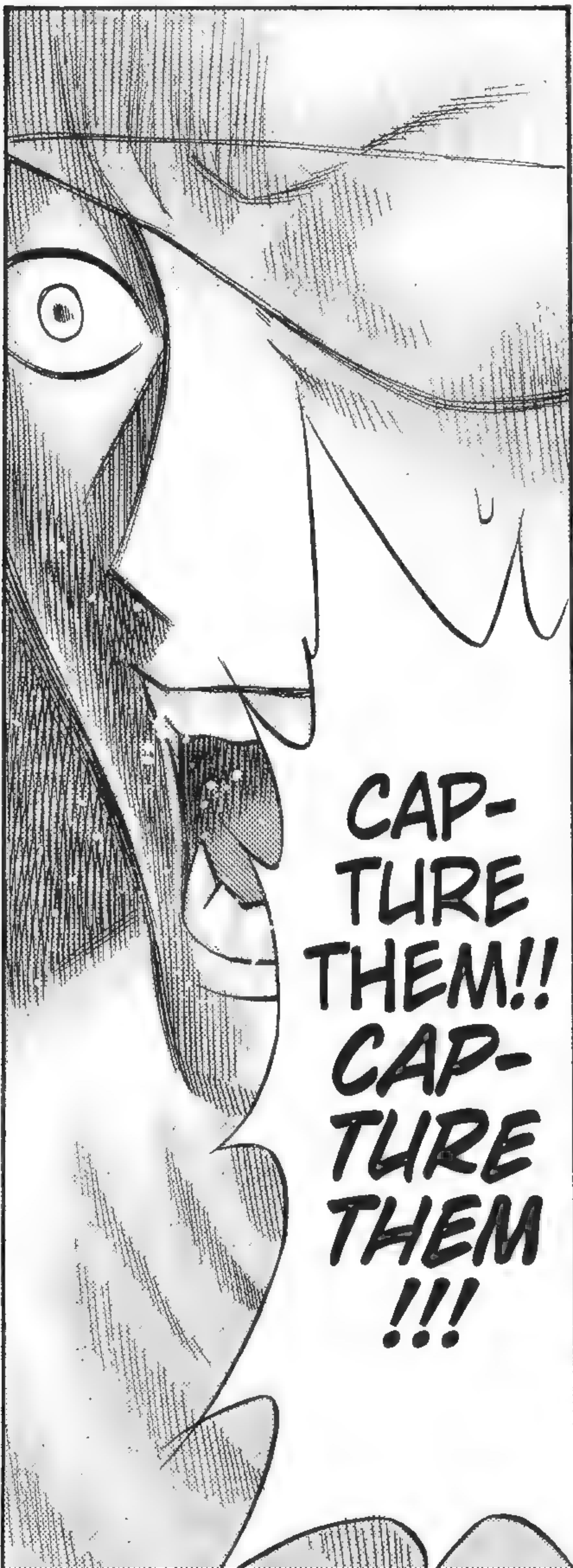
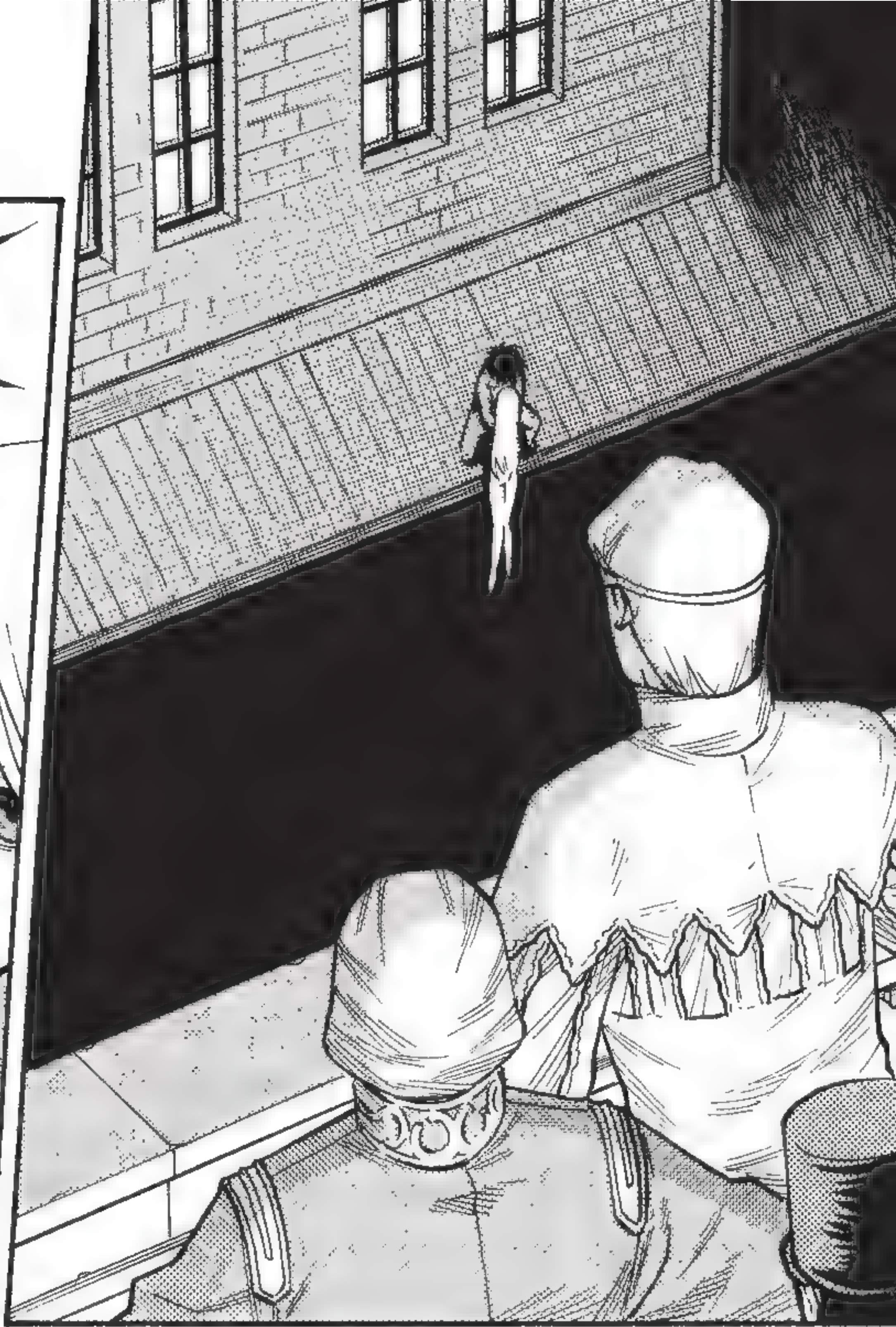
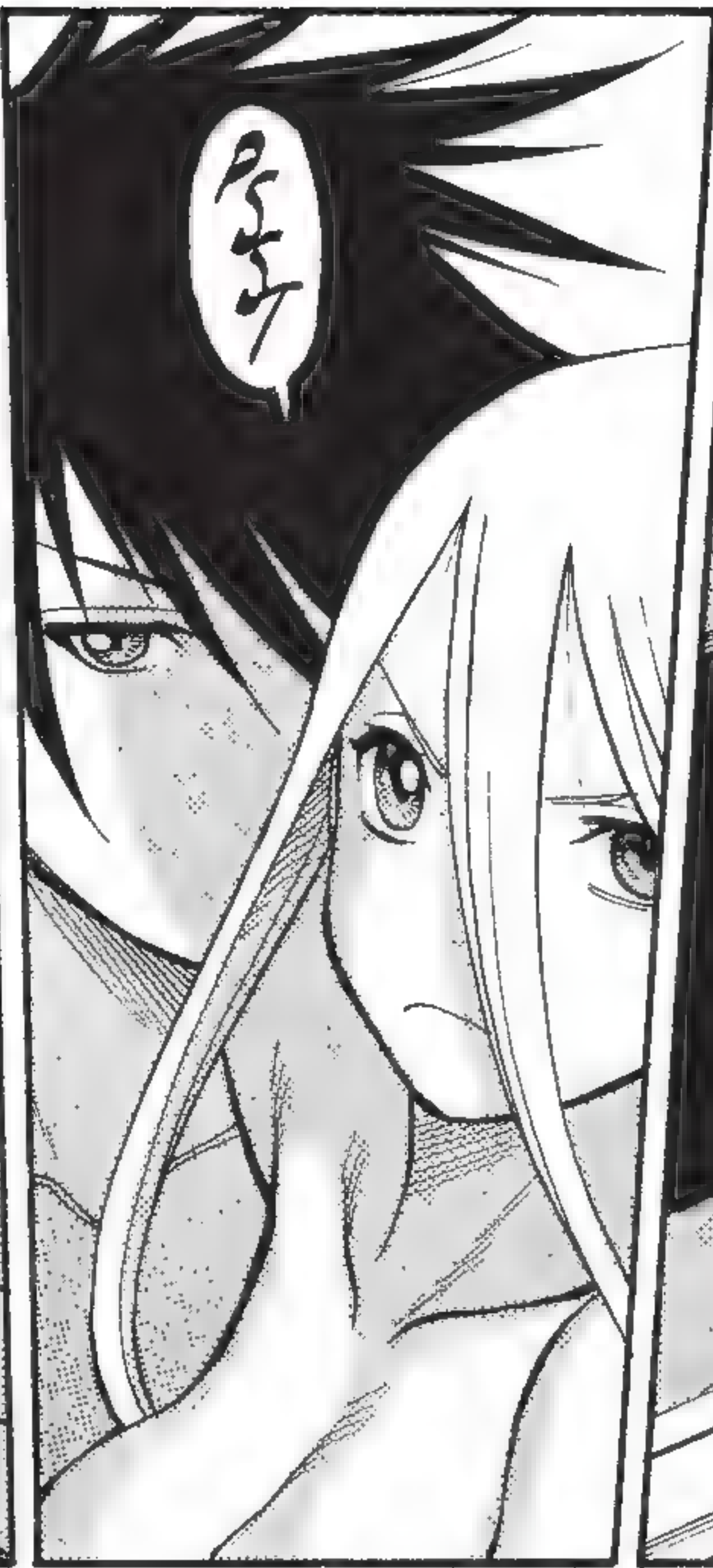
HIME-SAN!!



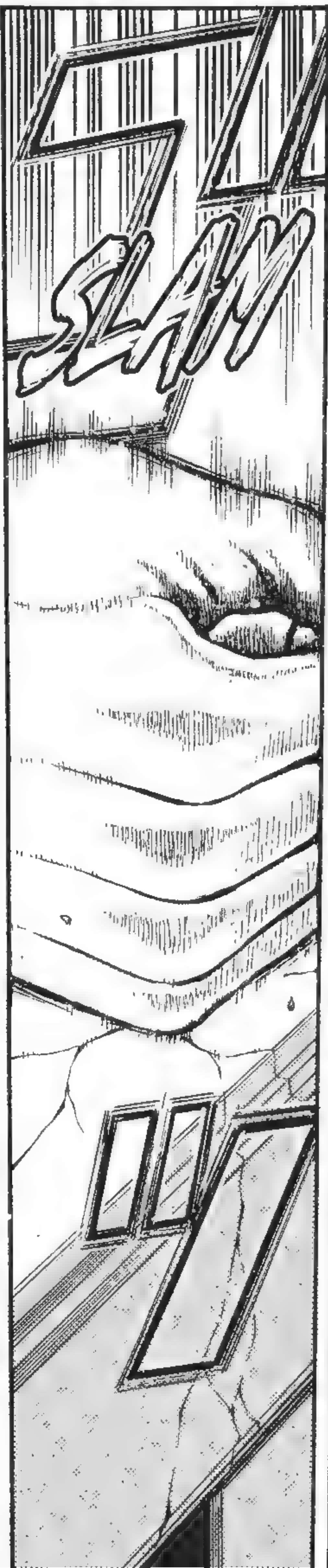
GLOMP



WHAP



CAP-
TURE
THEM!!
CAP-
TURE
THEM
!!!





SO,
WHAT DID
THAT
GESTURE
MEAN?

UH, I
THINK
YOU'RE
BETTER
OFF NOT
KNOWING.



AHA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

WHOOPS!
I THINK
WE
PISSED
HIM
OFF!!



I
WANNA
GO
WHERE
ONEE-
CHAN
IS!

I
MISS
HER
SO
MUCH!

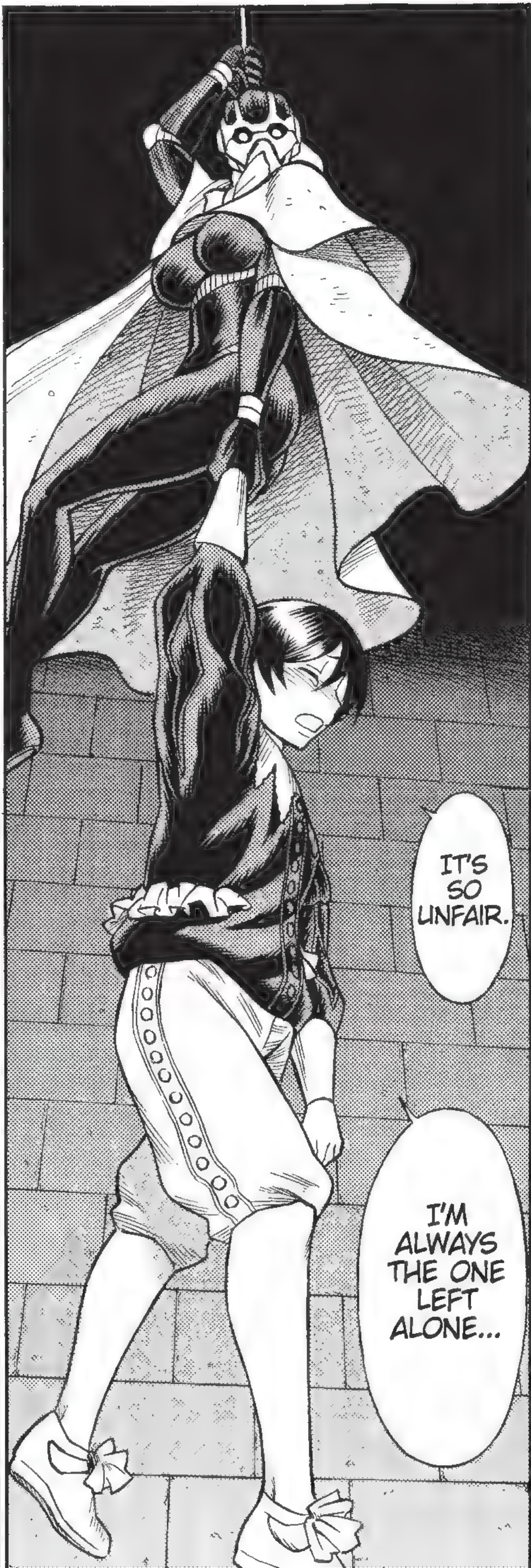
I
WANNA
BE
TOGE-
THER
WITH
HER
AGAIN!



LET
ME
GO.

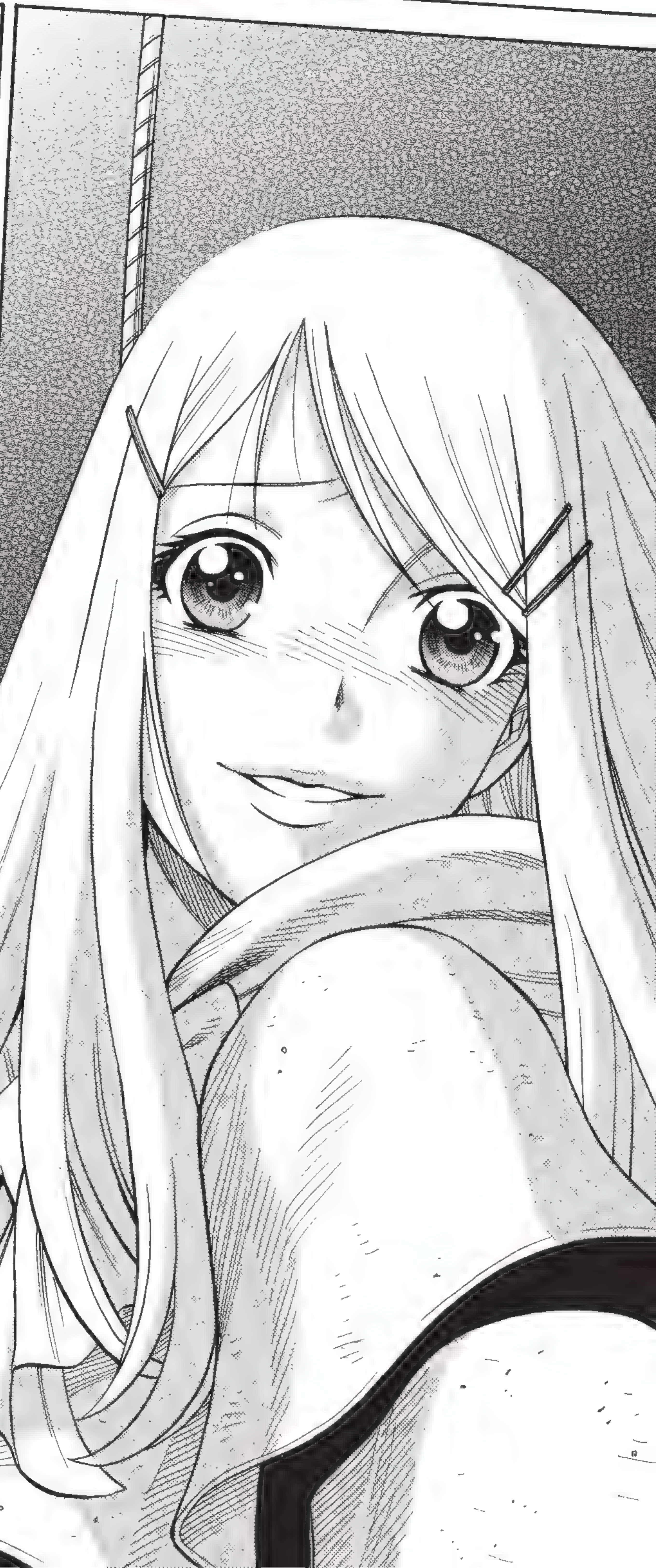
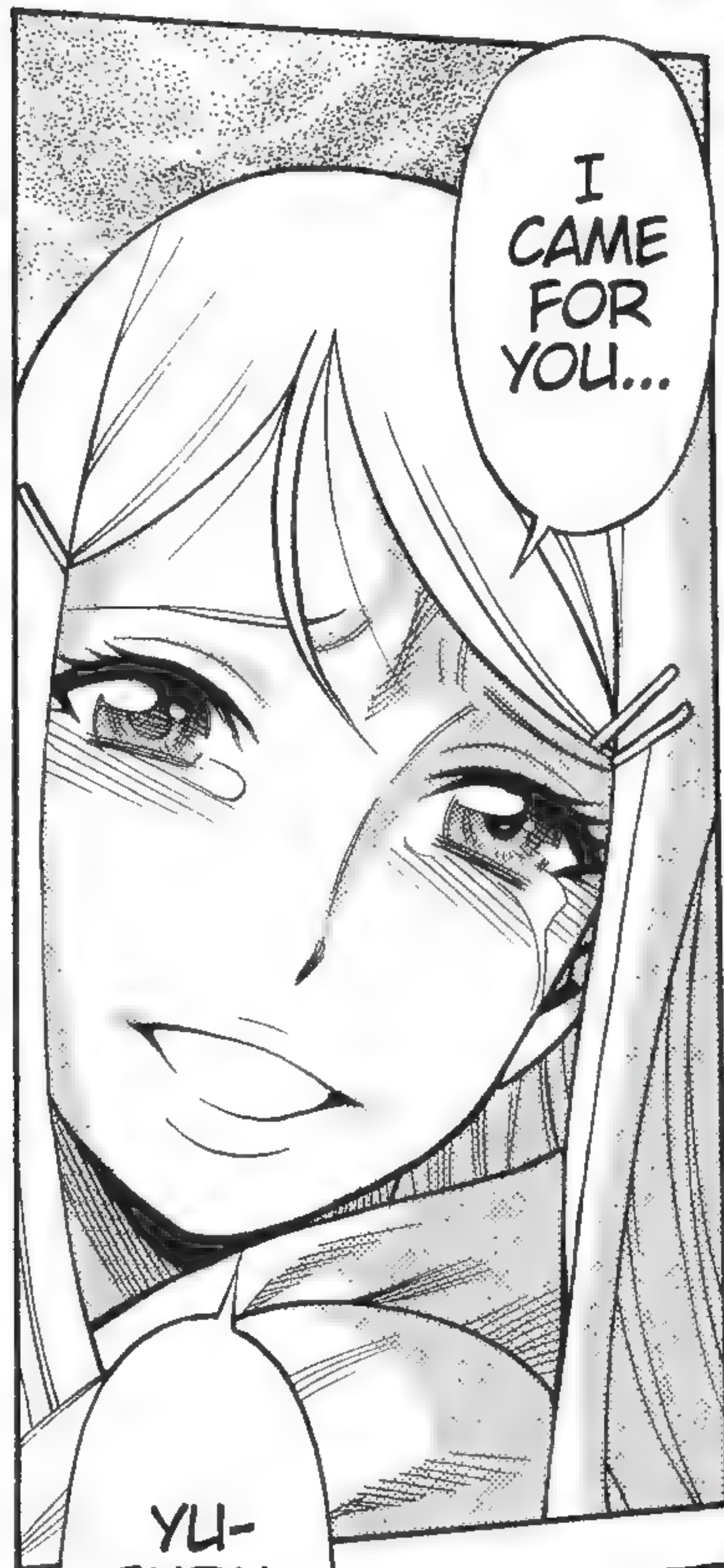
JUST
LET
ME
FALL.

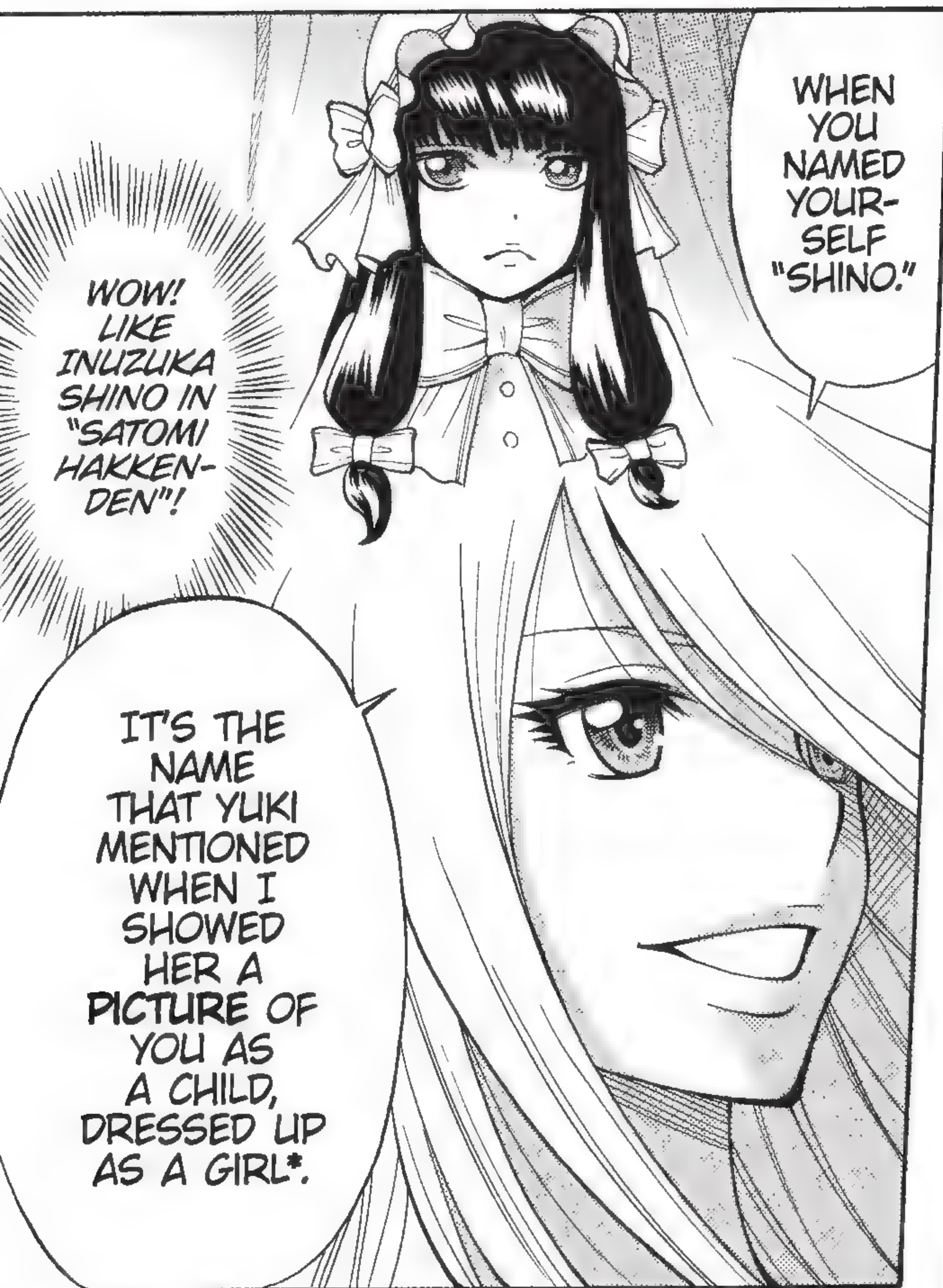
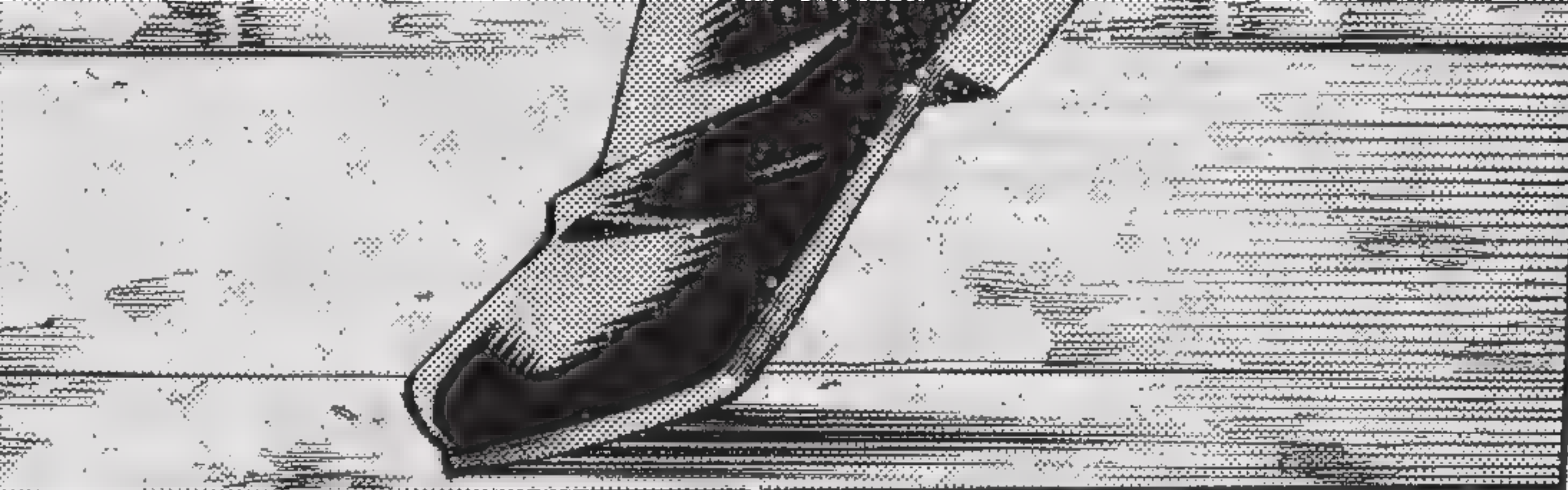
I'M
TIRED
OF
LIVING...



IT'S
SO
UNFAIR.

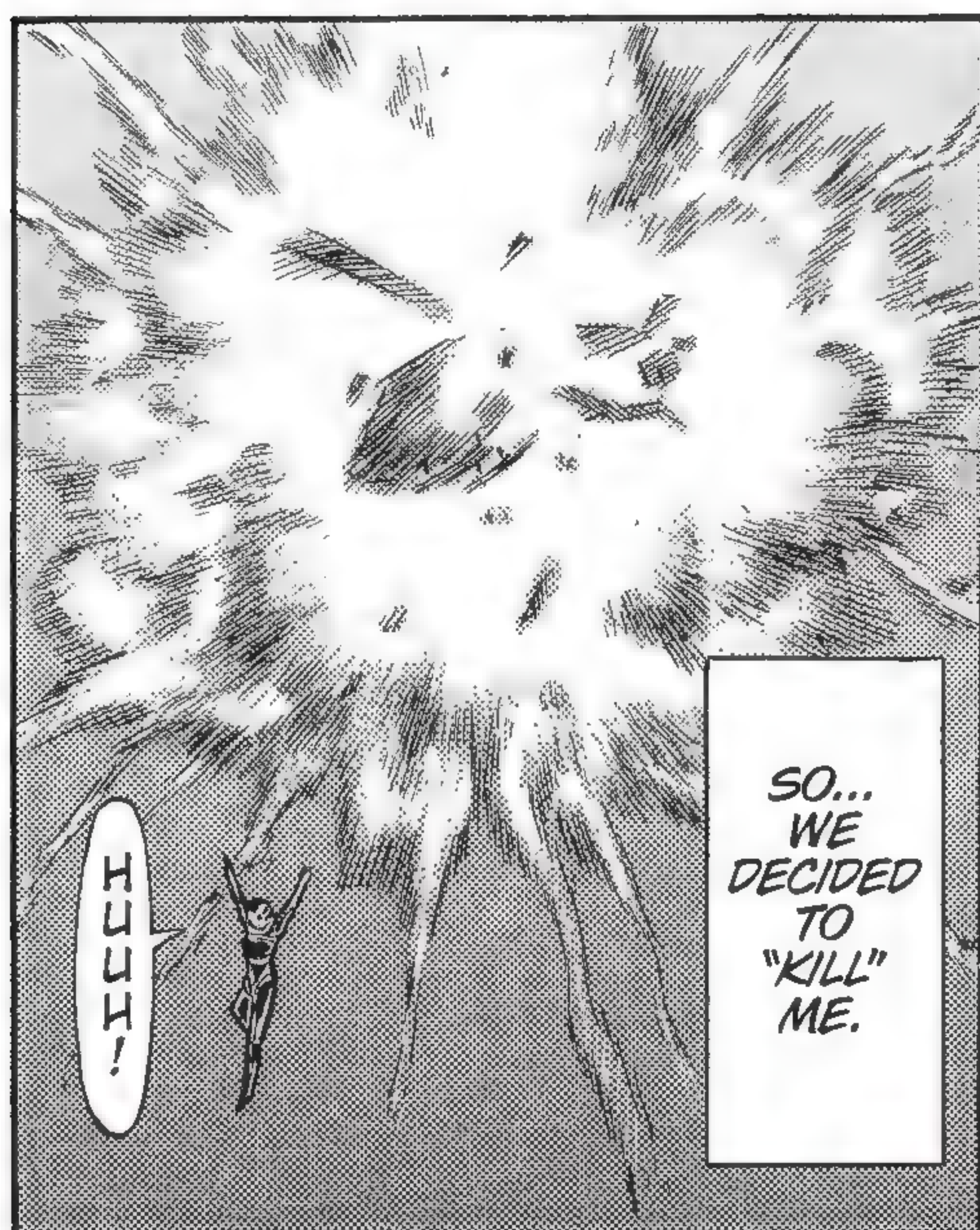
I'M
ALWAYS
THE ONE
LEFT
ALONE...

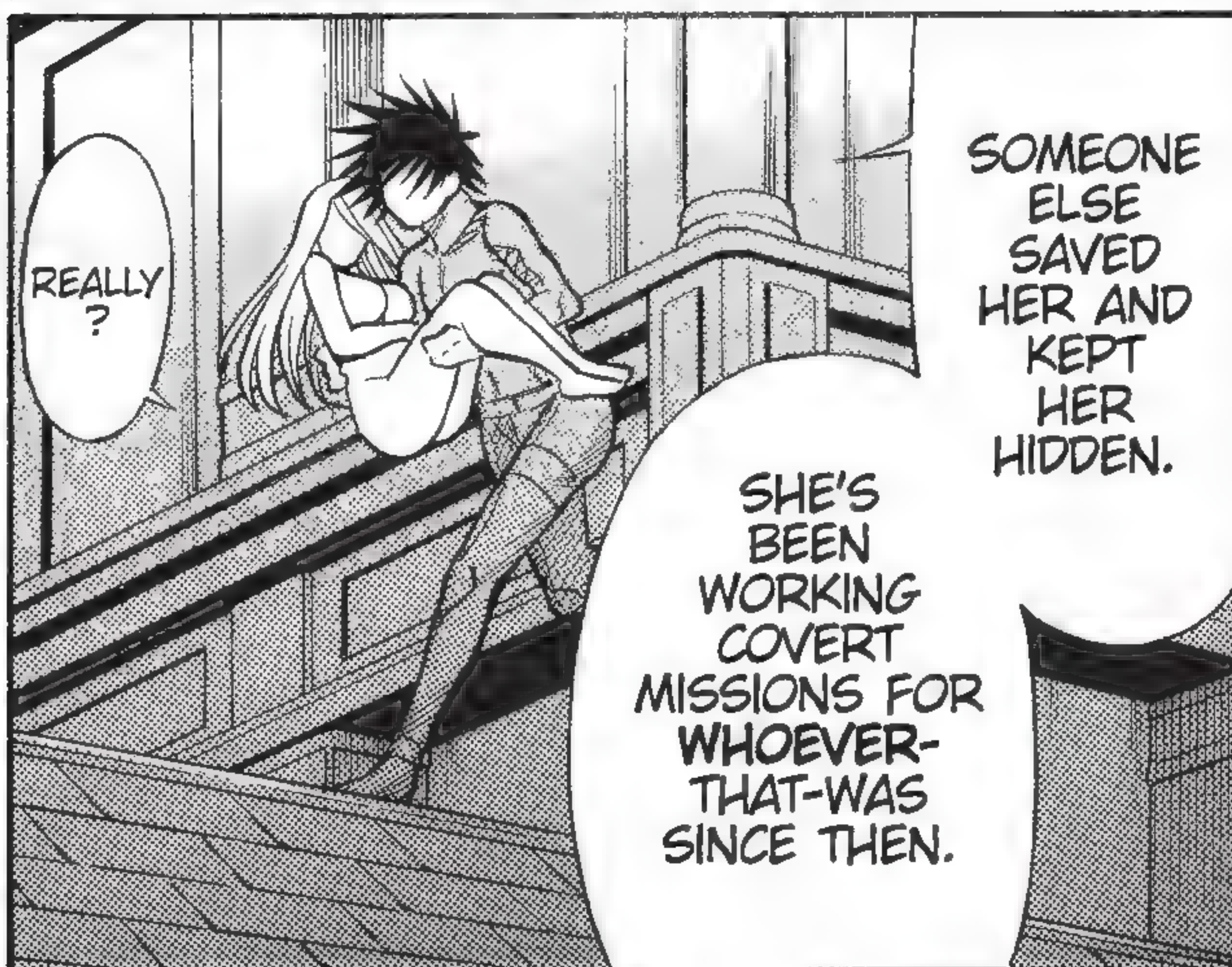
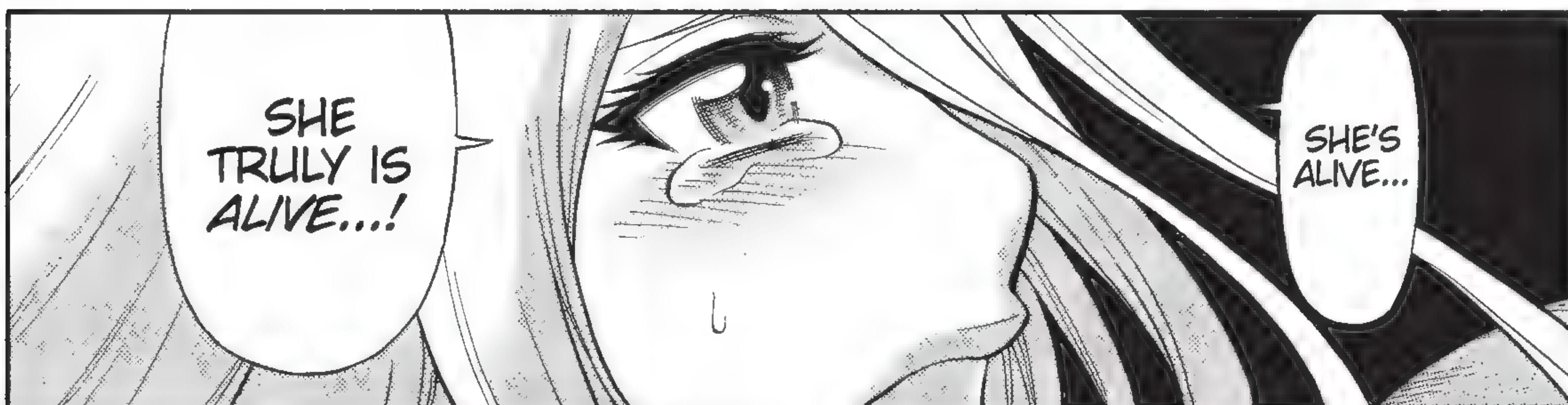




*Way back in Vol. 6, Chapter 33!







*Kaichou = Class President. Nanami's position at the school where Akira, Minna, Yuki, and several other Bund supporting characters attend.



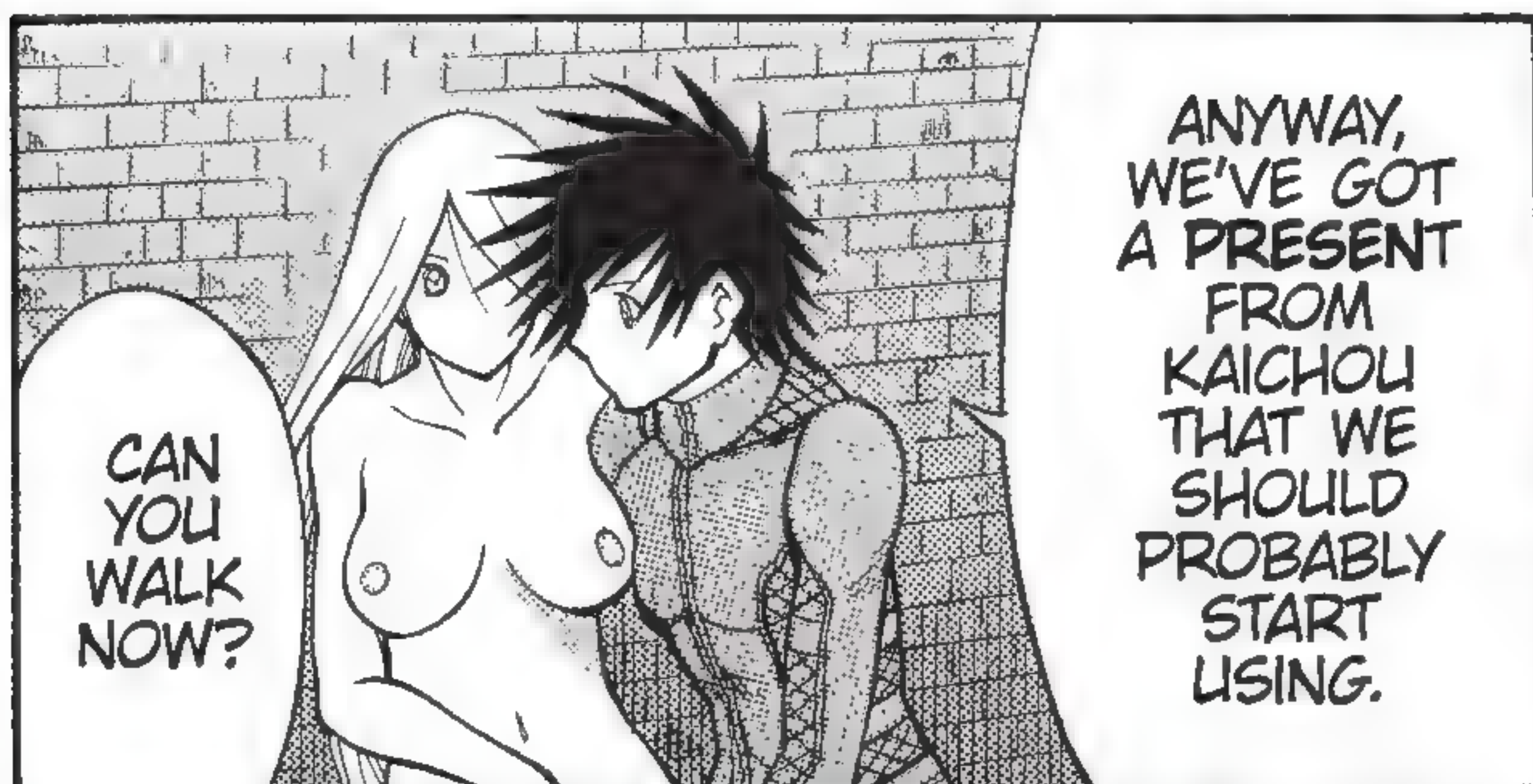


AND
YOUR
FRIEND.

SHE SAID
THAT,
NO MATTER
WHAT'S
HAPPENED,
SHE'S STILL
YOUR
FAITHFUL
RETAINER...



OH,
AND SHE
WANTED
ME TO
TELL YOU
SOME-
THING
ELSE,
TOO.



CAN
YOU
WALK
NOW?

ANYWAY,
WE'VE GOT
A PRESENT
FROM
KAICHOU
THAT WE
SHOULD
PROBABLY
START
USING.



TAKE
A
LOOK.

WITH THIS,
WE CAN FIND
OUR WAY
TO THE
RENDEZVOUS
POINT WITHOUT
ROZENMANN'S
GOONS
SPOTTING US.

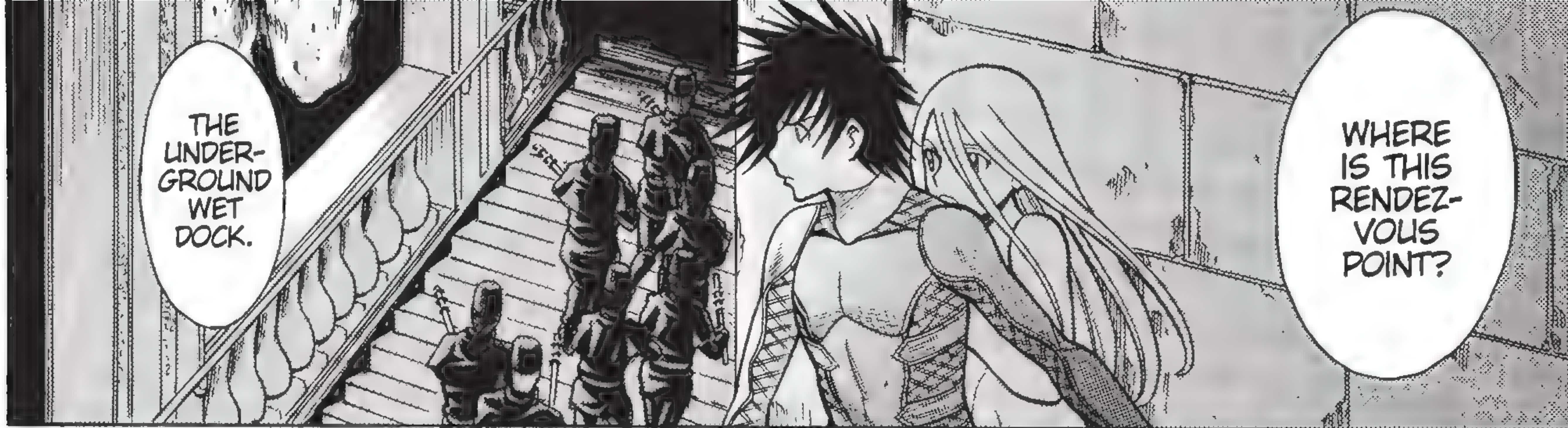
SHE
HACKED
INTO THE
CASTLE'S
SURVEILLANCE
SYSTEM AND
HOOKED UP
THIS
SMARTPHONE
TO IT.



NANAMI
...

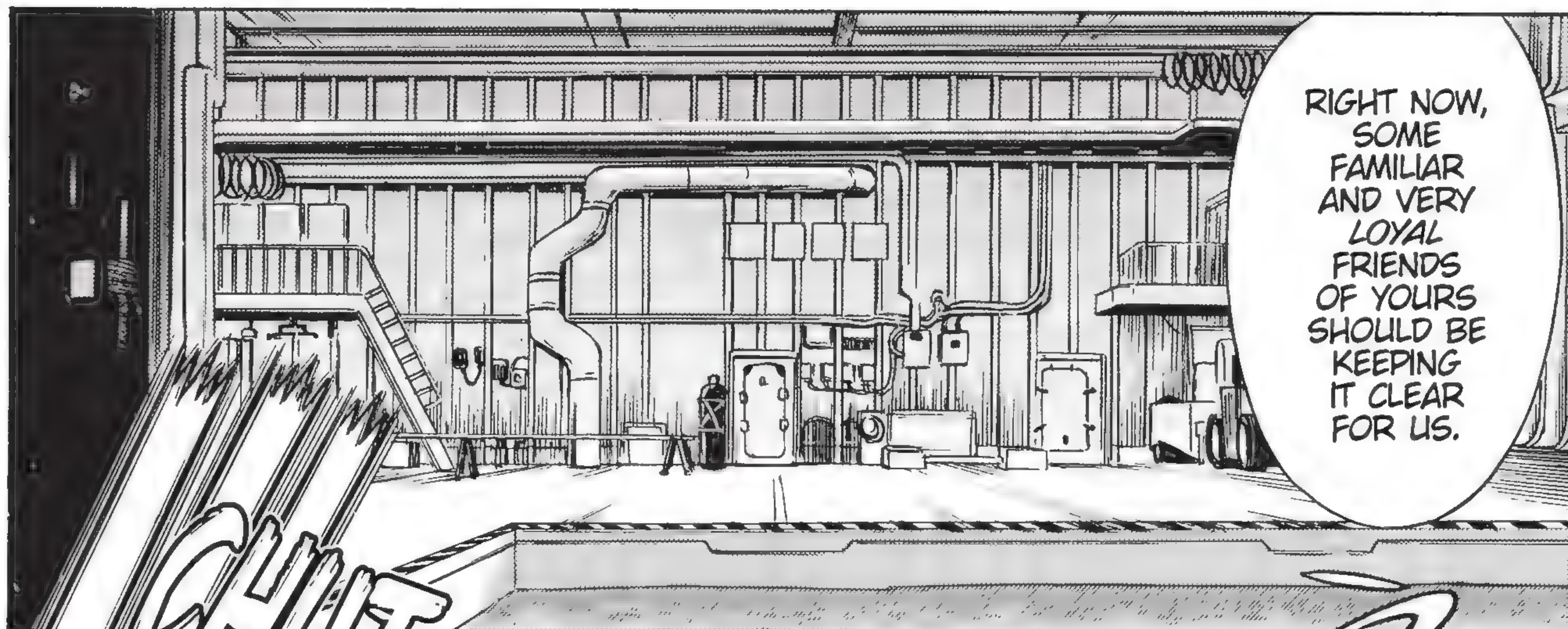
OH,
NA-
NAMI.

MY
FRIEND.

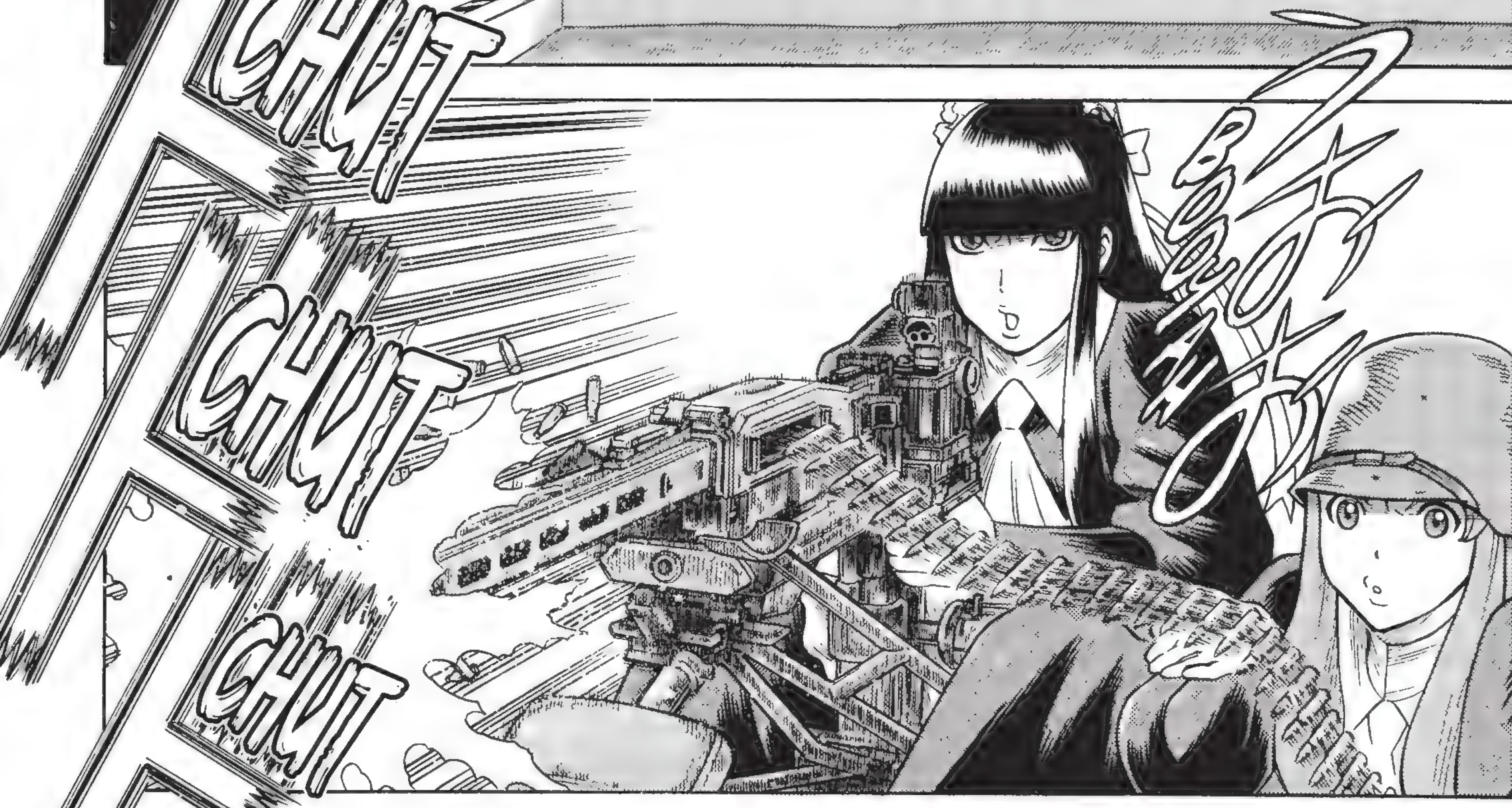


THE
UNDER-
GROUND
WET
DOCK.

WHERE
IS THIS
RENDEZ-
VOUS
POINT?

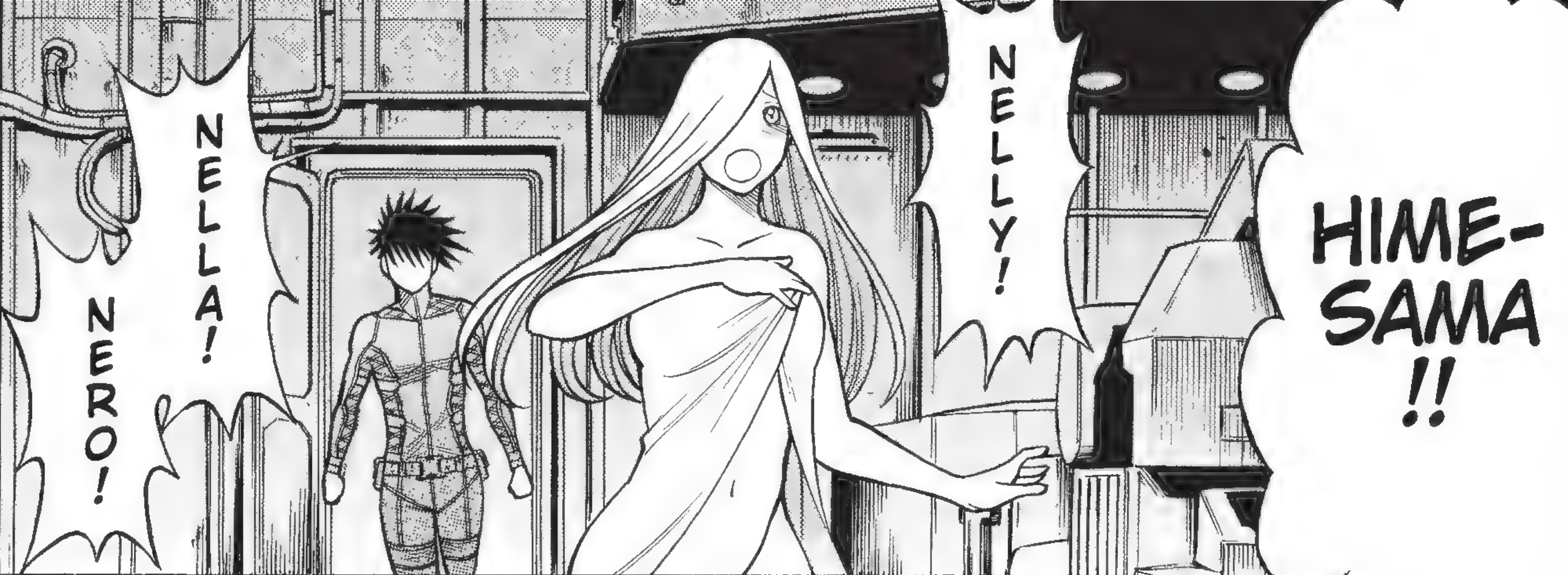


RIGHT NOW,
SOME
FAMILIAR
AND VERY
LOYAL
FRIENDS
OF YOURS
SHOULD BE
KEEPING
IT CLEAR
FOR US.



AH!

DON'T LET
ANYBODY
GET IN
HERE
UNTIL
HIME-
SAMA
ARRIVES!



NEERO!

NEELIA!

NEELLY!

HIME-SAMA!!



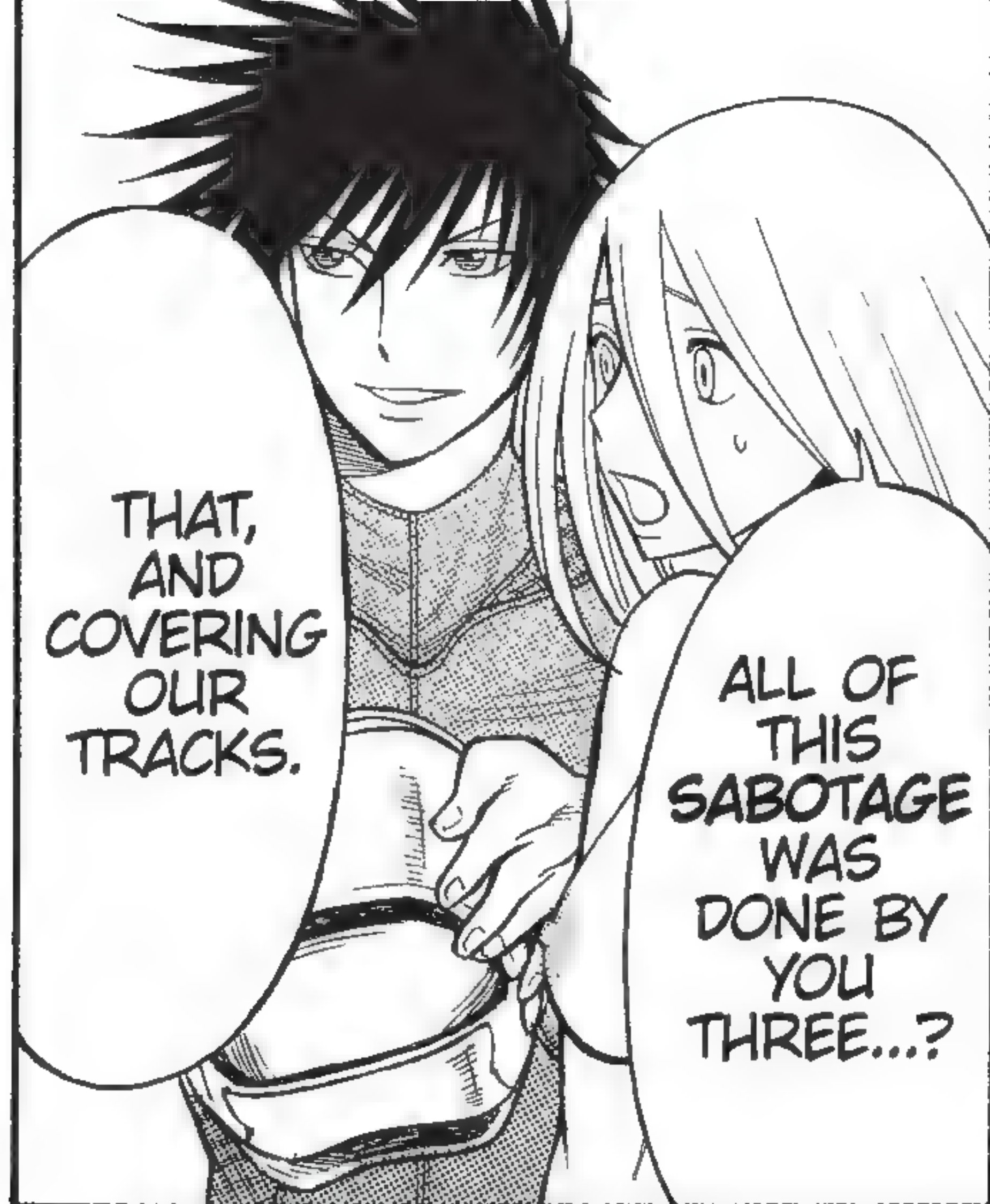
NOT TRULY. YOU SEE, WE TOOK OUR OLD ENEMY, AND WE MADE IT WORK FOR US!

AND I, FOR YOU! BUT WERE YOU ALL NOT REPRO-GRAMMED?!

OH, THANK GOOD-NESS!

HIME-SAMA, WE WERE SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU!!

?



THAT,
AND
COVERING
OUR
TRACKS.

ALL OF
THIS
SABOTAGE
WAS
DONE BY
YOU
THREE...?



EVERYONE
KNEW
THAT WE
HAD BEEN
REPRO-
GRAMMED,
SO NO
ONE KEPT
AN EYE
ON US AT
ALL.

YEP!
WE
WERE
LEFT ALL
ALONE,
SO WE
COULD
DO
WHAT-
EVER WE
WANTED!



SHE
MEANS
THE
PIED
PIPER.

SO, EVERY
NIGHT AT
EXACTLY
MIDNIGHT,
THEY'D
FOLLOW A
PRE-SET
PIECE OF
OUR PLAN,
DESPITE
BEING
REPRO-
GRAMMED.

THAT
MYSTERIOUS
BENEFACTOR OF
OURS TOOK THE
STEALTH-TYPE
THAT HAD
INFECTED
KAICHOU,
DEVELOPED
AN UPDATED
VERSION,
AND THEN
INJECTED
THESE THREE
WITH IT.



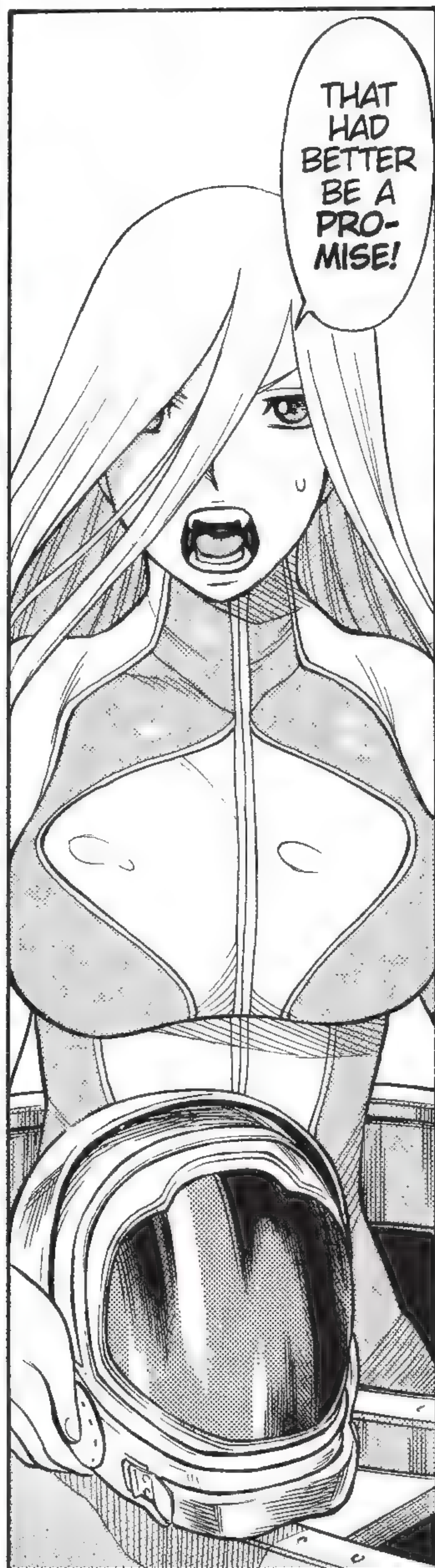
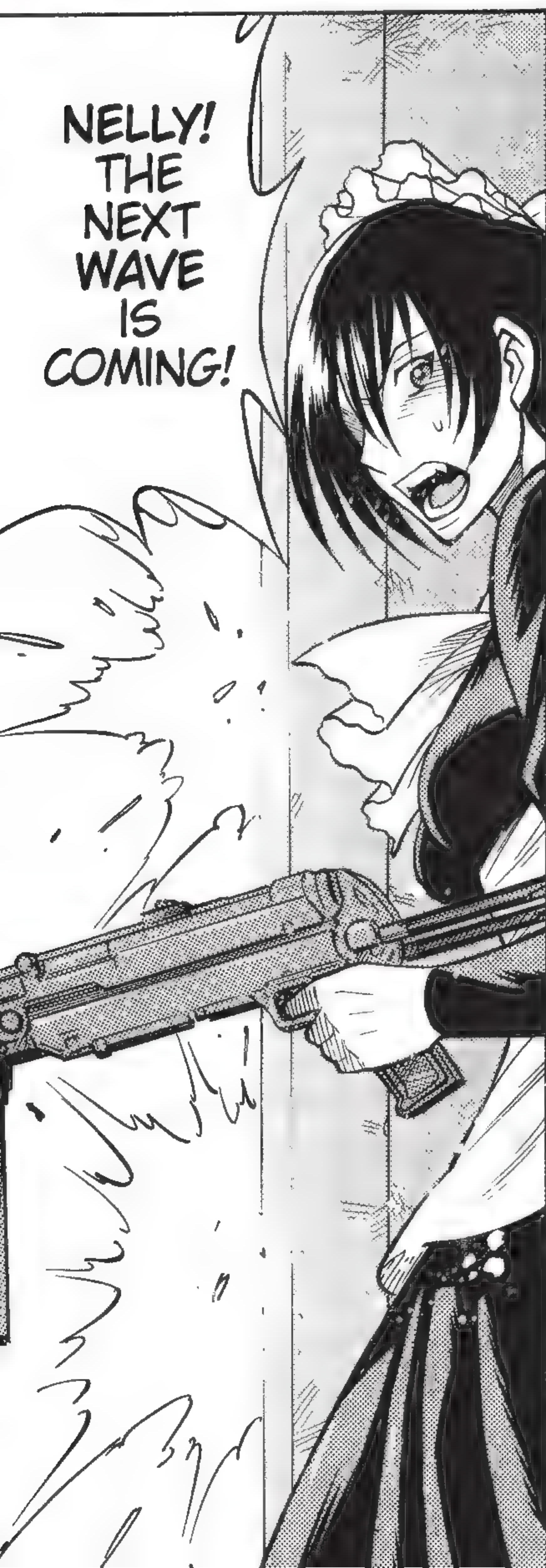
YET
YOU
DID IT,
JUST
FOR
ME...

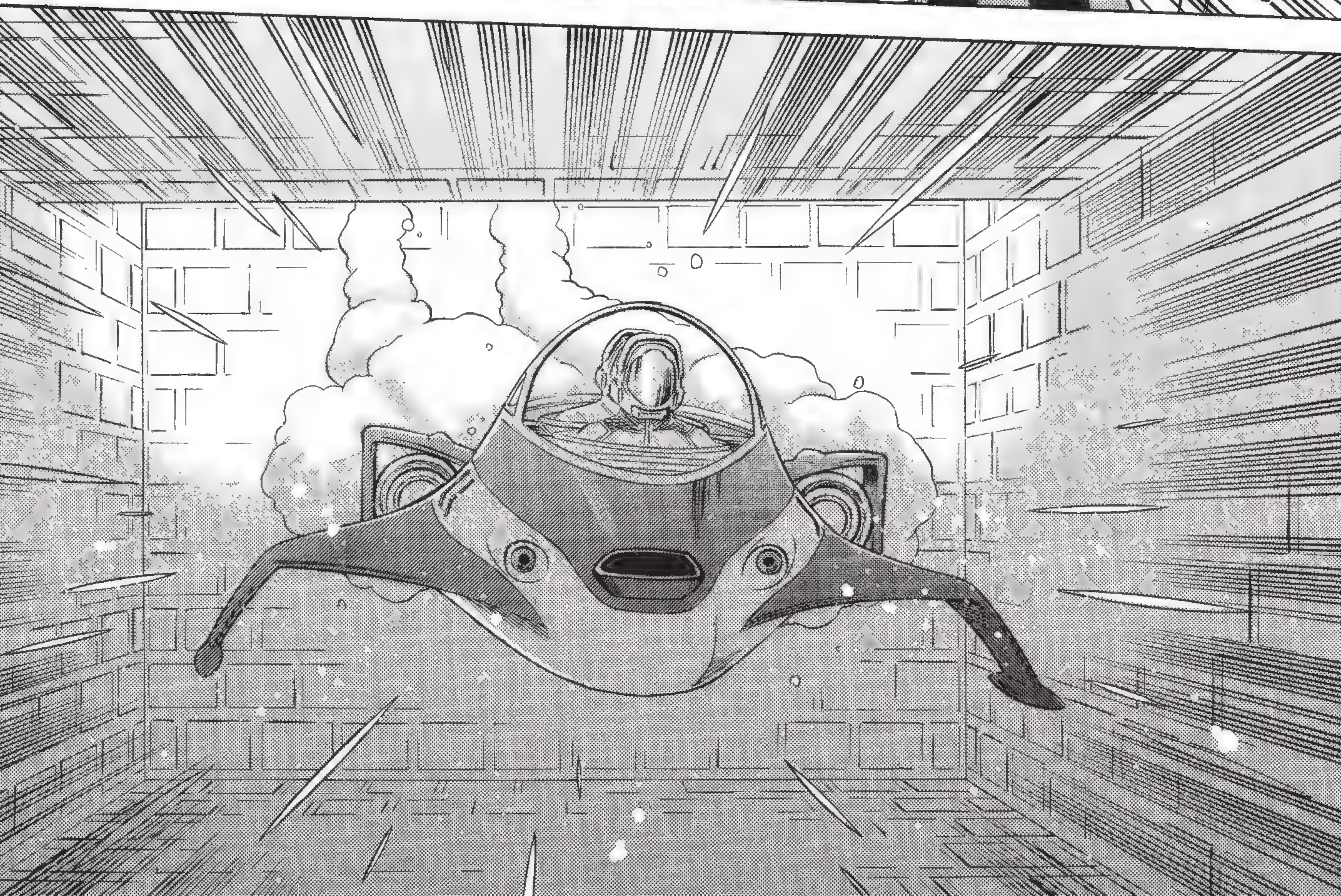
THAT
WAS A
TERRIBLY
RISKY
GAMBIT.

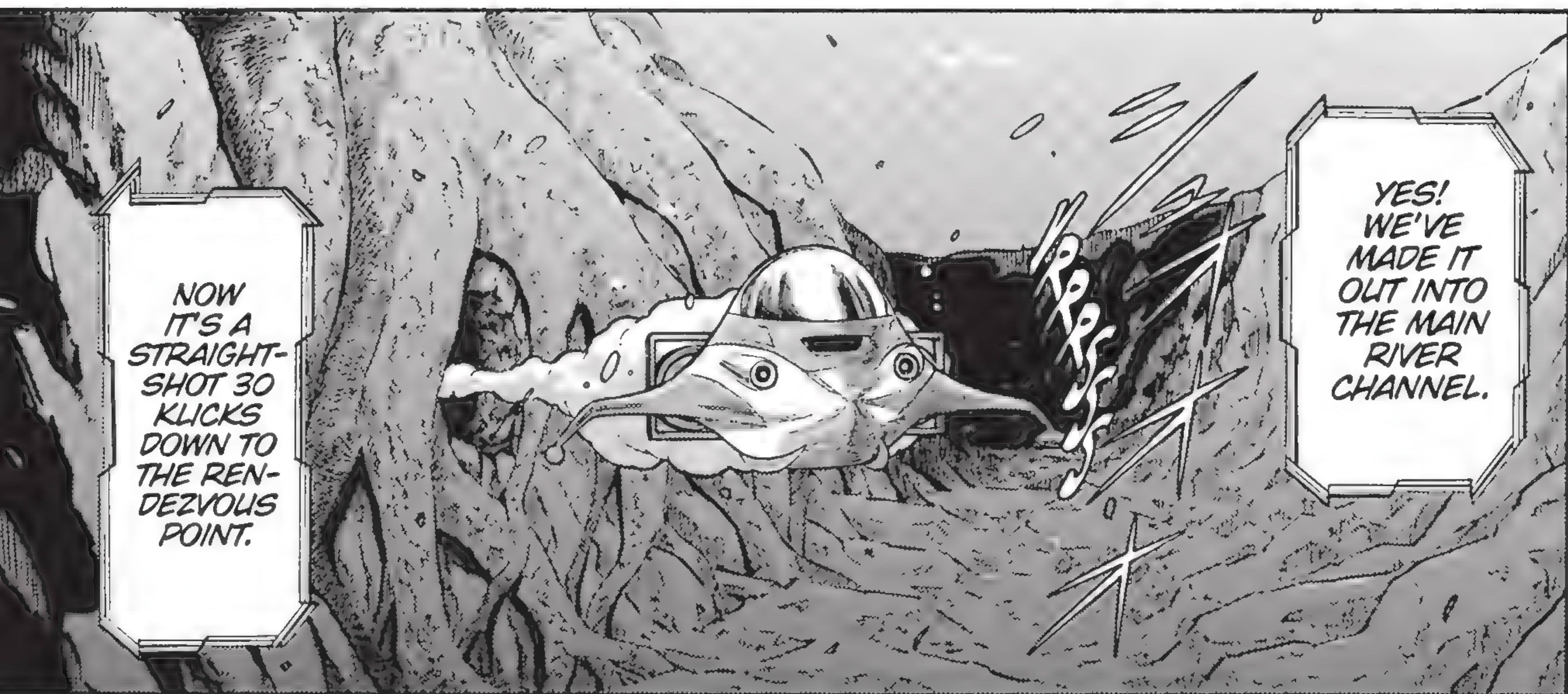
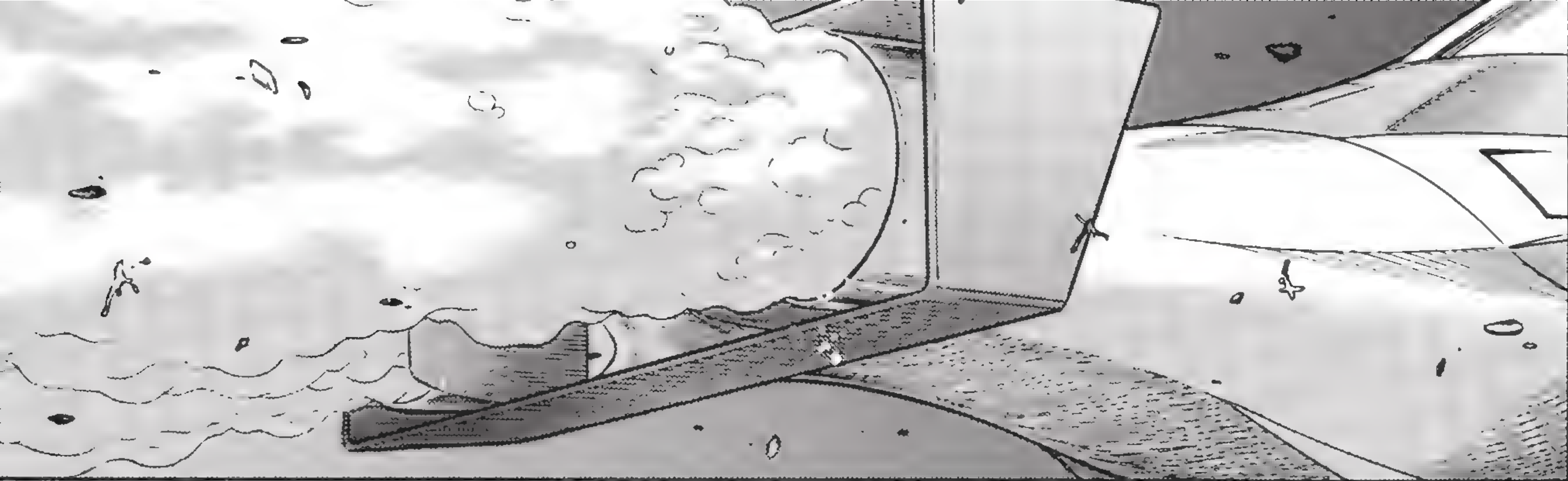


THEN, ONCE THE
TIME FOR ACTION
FINALLY CAME,
NANAMI HAD
AMPLES OF
YOUR DNA,
HIME-SAMA, TO
RE-REPROGRAM
THE THREE
OF US BACK
TO NORMAL.

AND
HERE
WE
ARE!

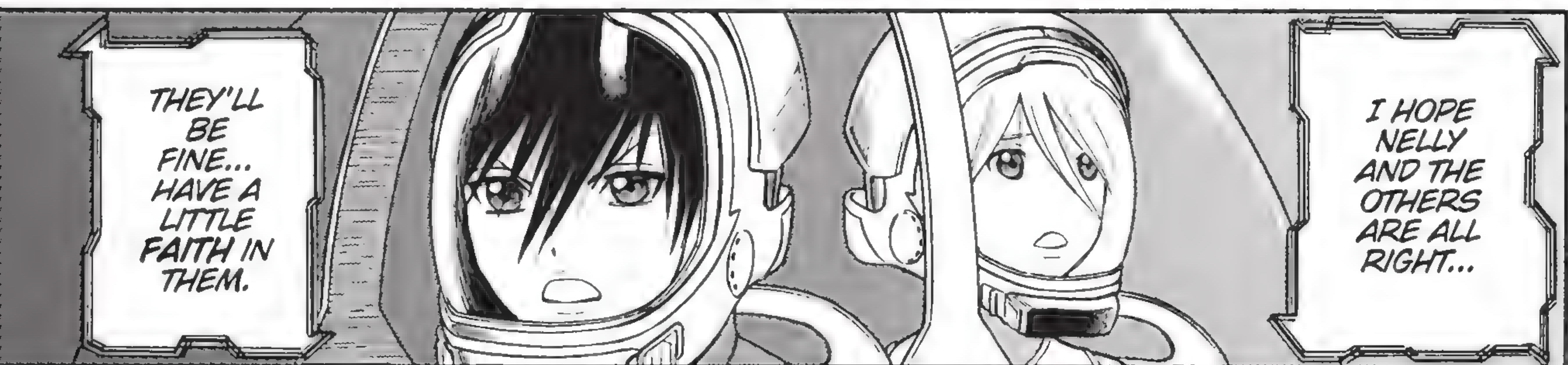






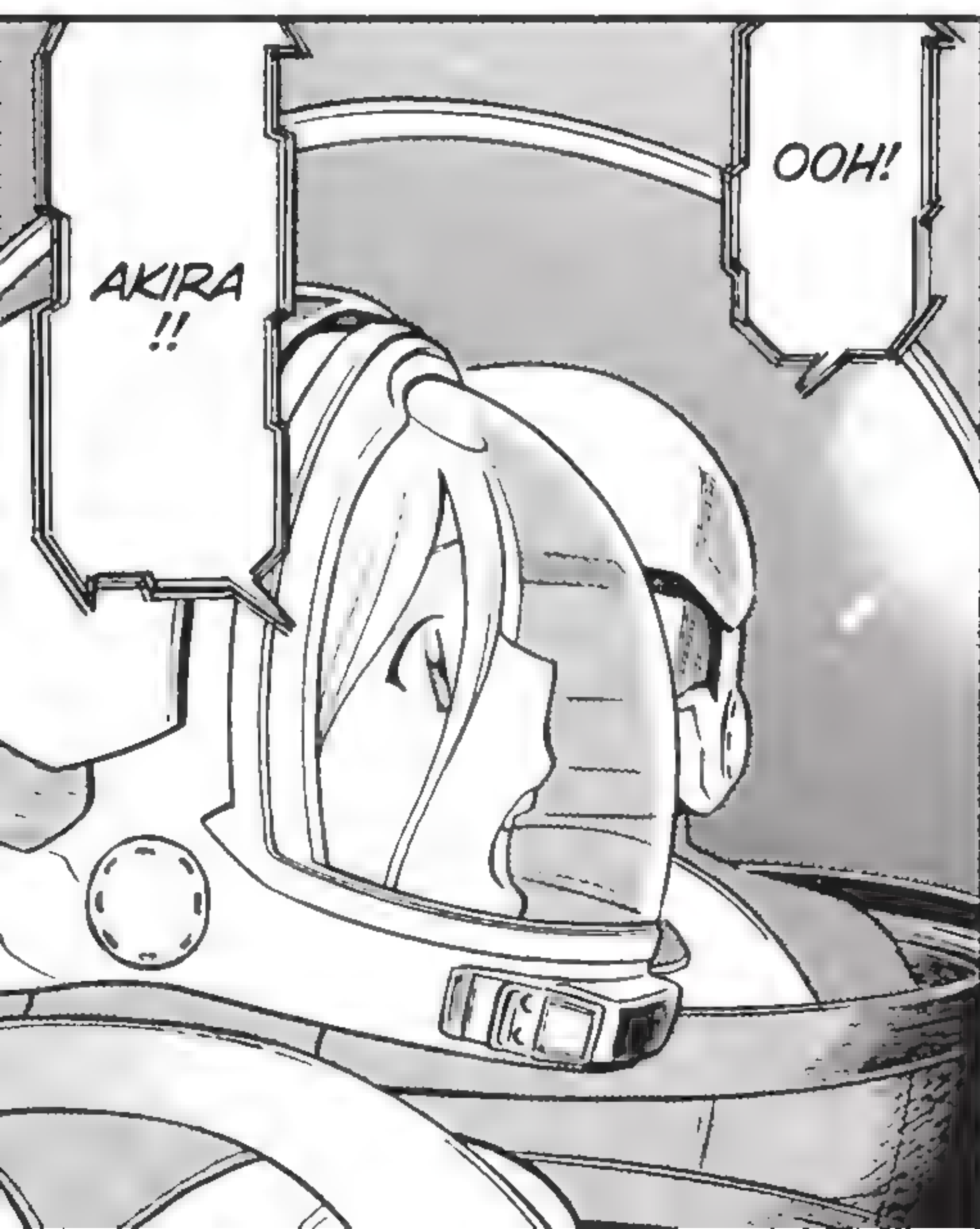
NOW
IT'S A
STRAIGHT-
SHOT 30
KLICKS
DOWN TO
THE REN-
DEZVOUS
POINT.

YES!
WE'VE
MADE IT
OUT INTO
THE MAIN
RIVER
CHANNEL.



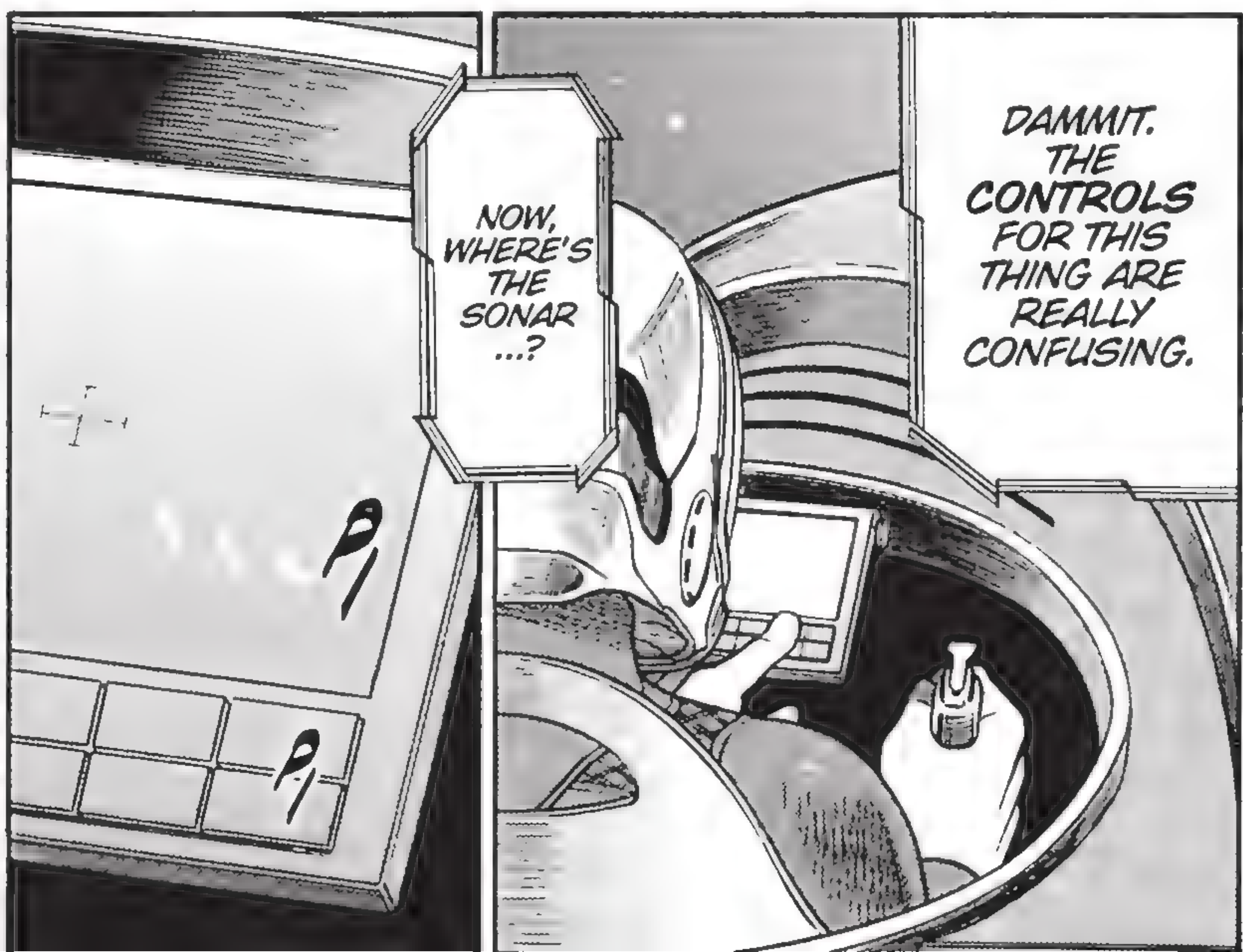
THEY'LL
BE
FINE...
HAVE A
LITTLE
FAITH IN
THEM.

I HOPE
NELLY
AND THE
OTHERS
ARE ALL
RIGHT...



AKIRA
!!

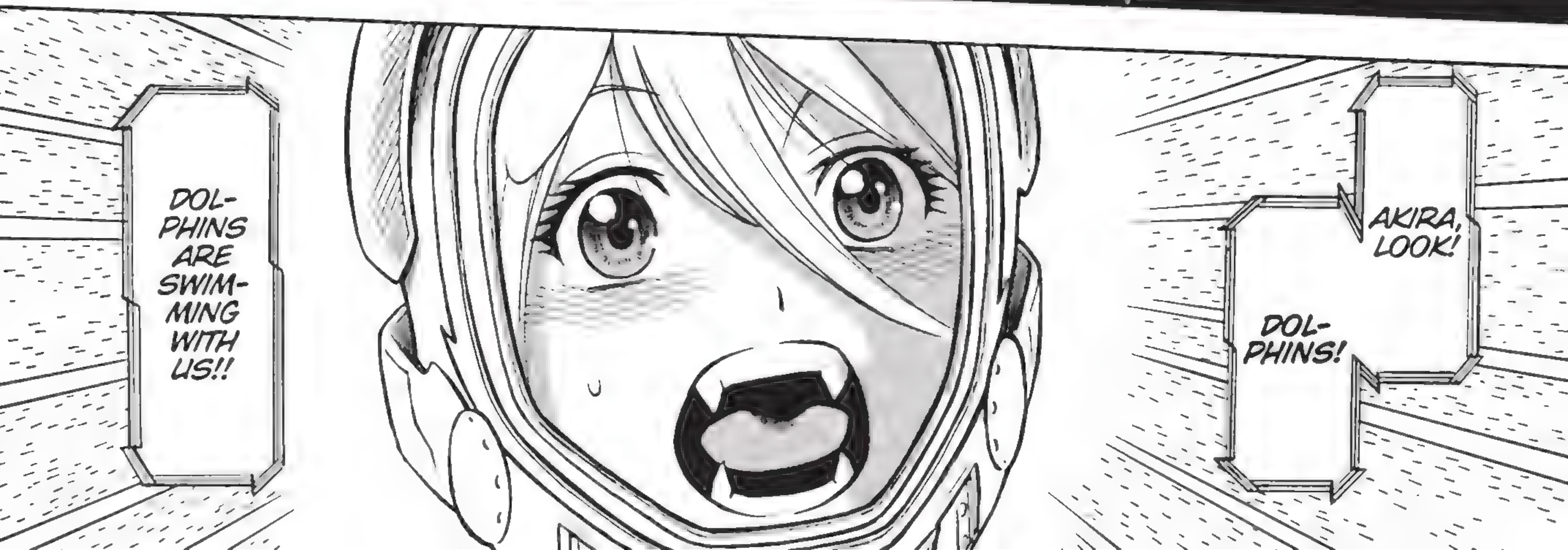
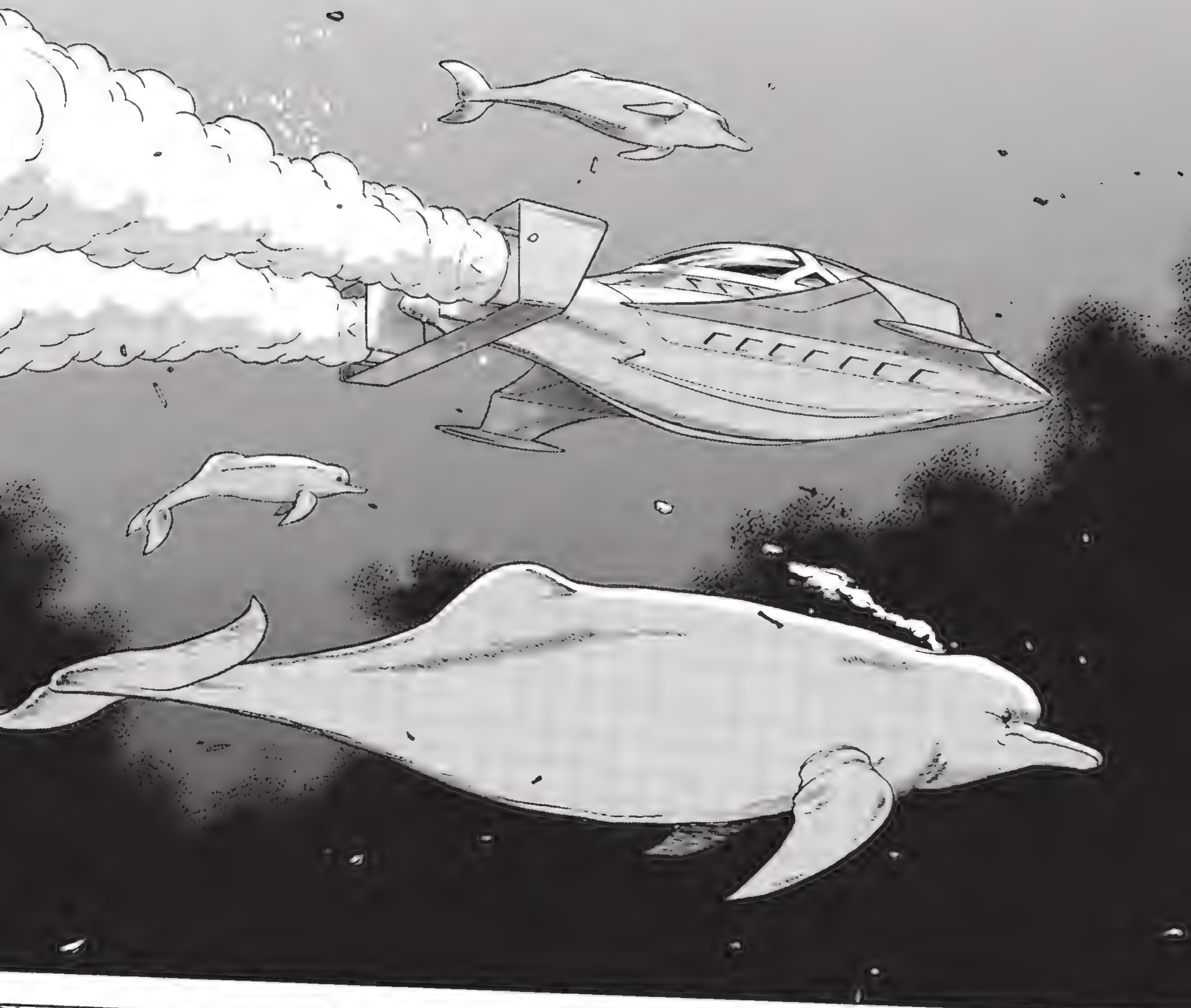
OOH!



NOW,
WHERE'S
THE
SONAR
...?

DAMMIT.
THE
CONTROLS
FOR THIS
THING ARE
REALLY
CONFUSING.

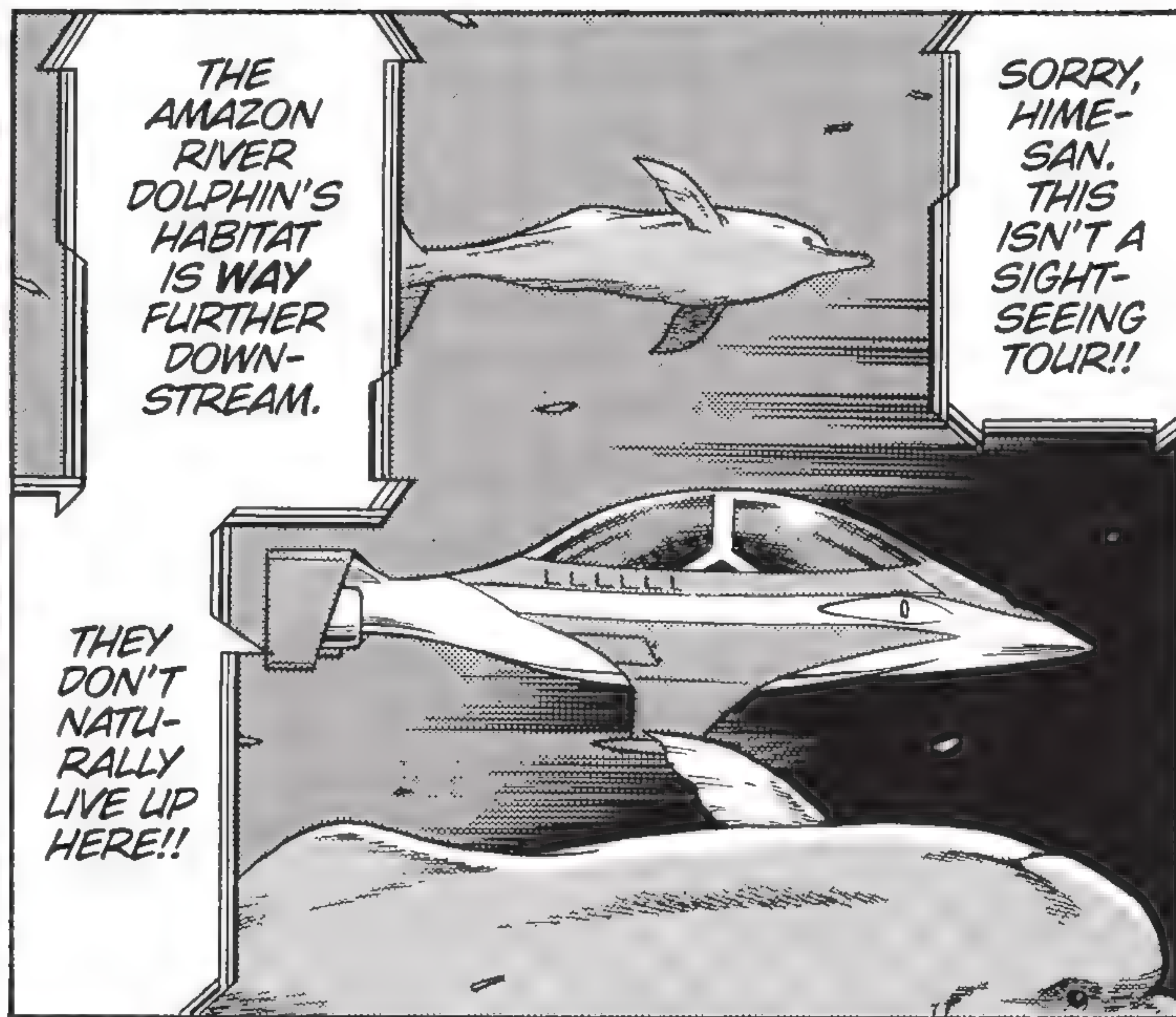
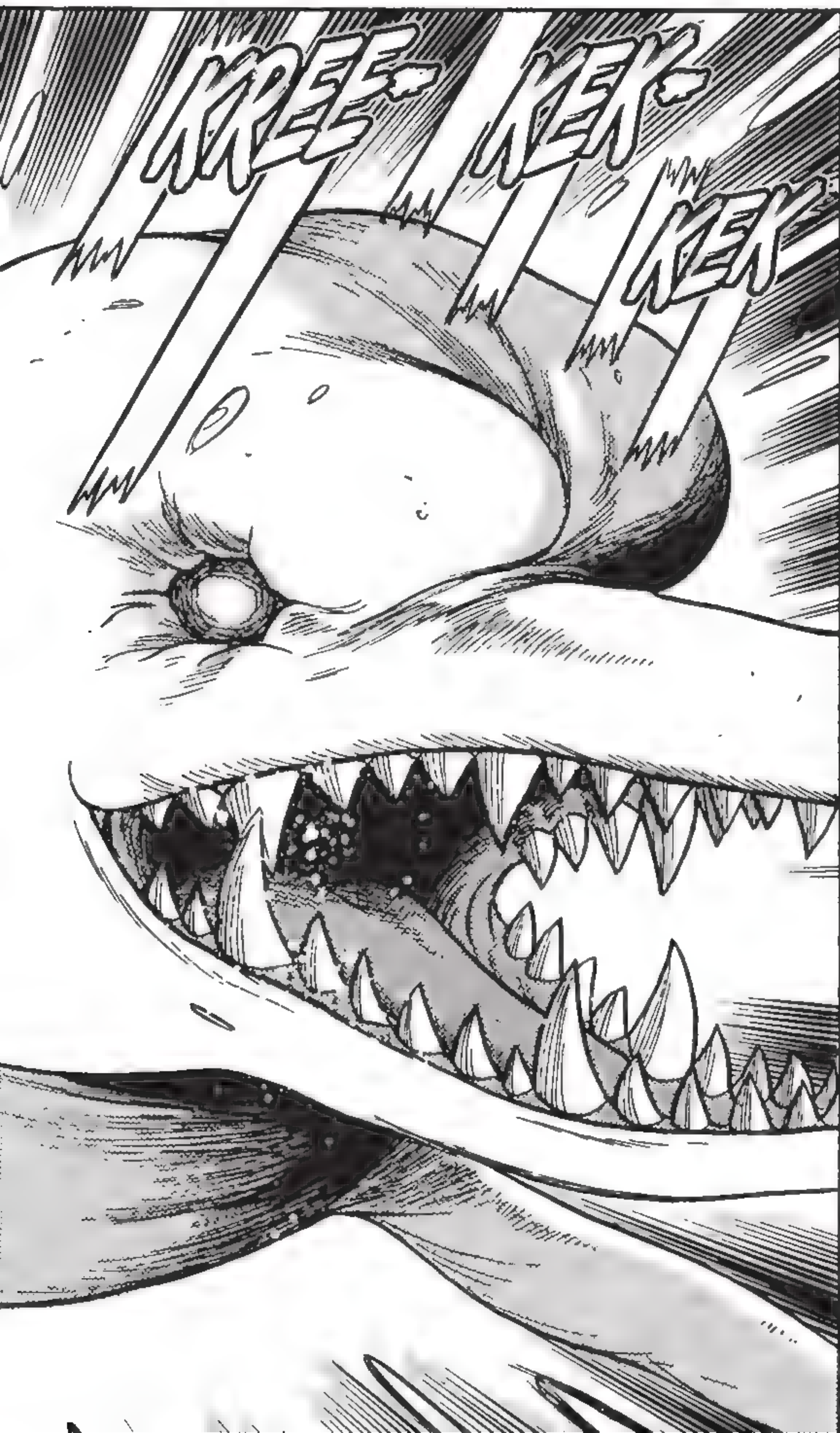
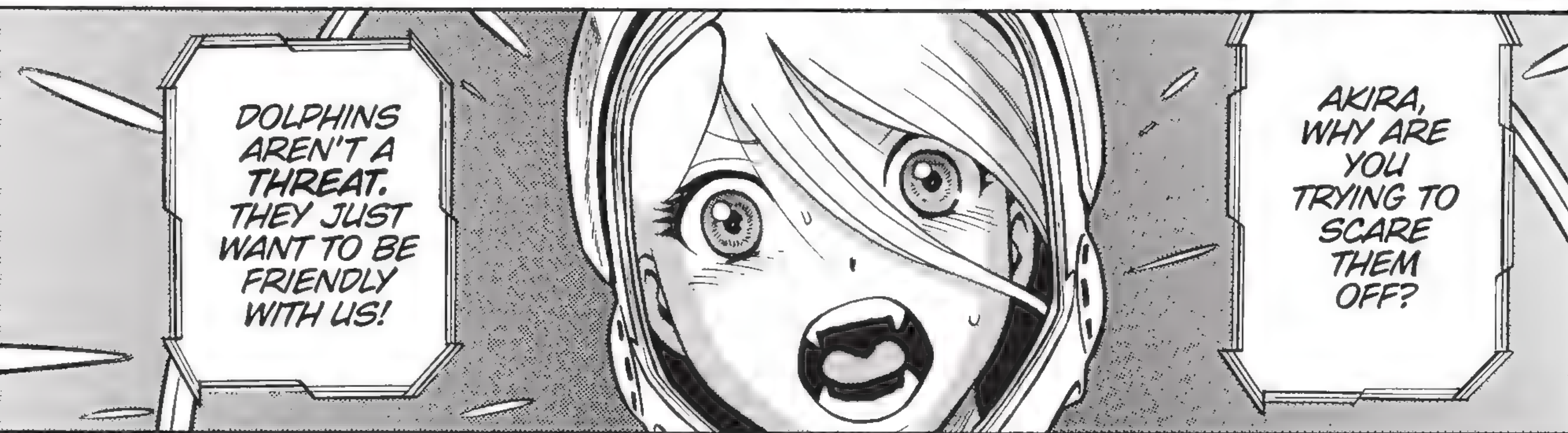
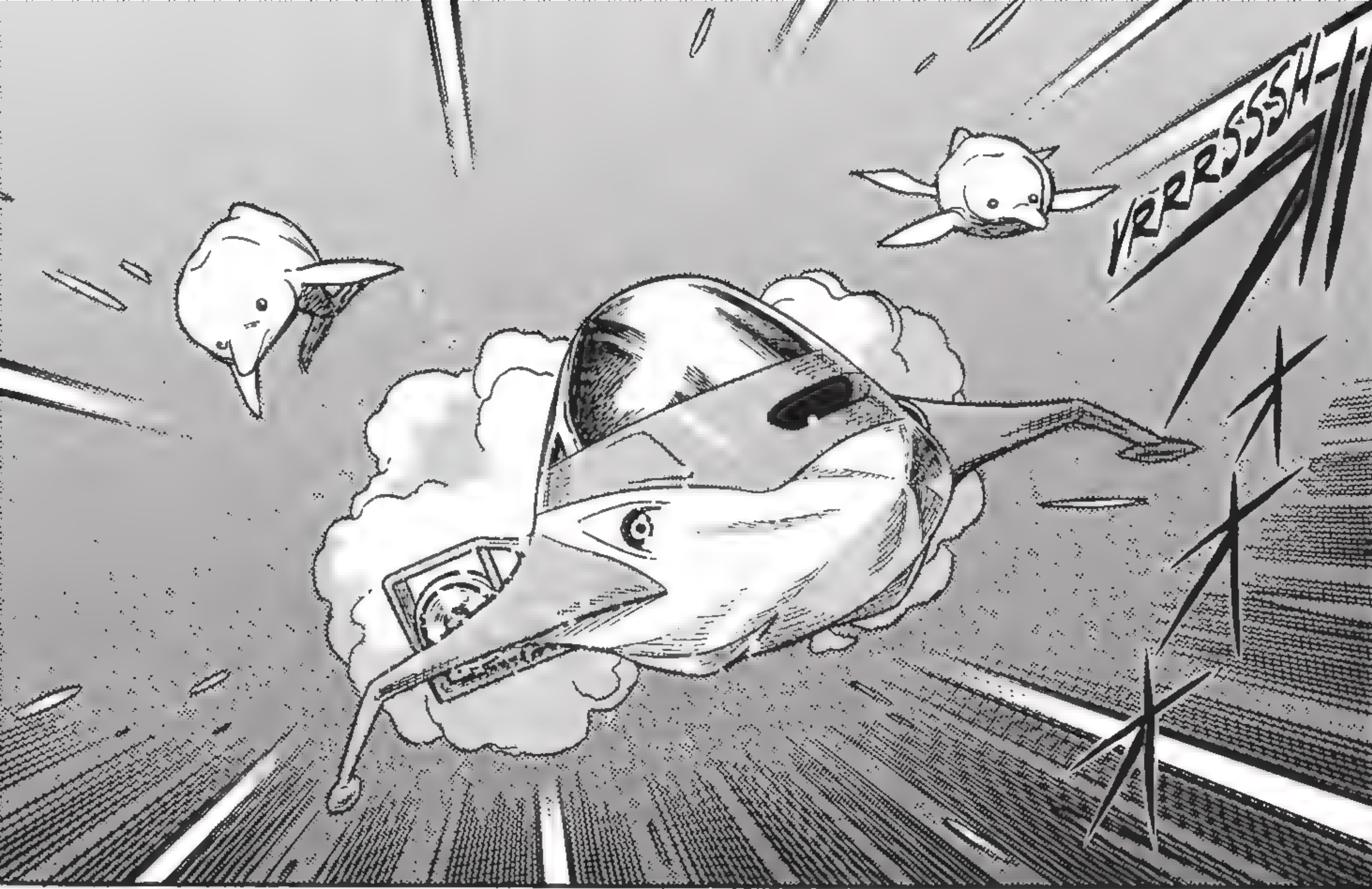
Chapter 69: Escape From the Tiger's Lair

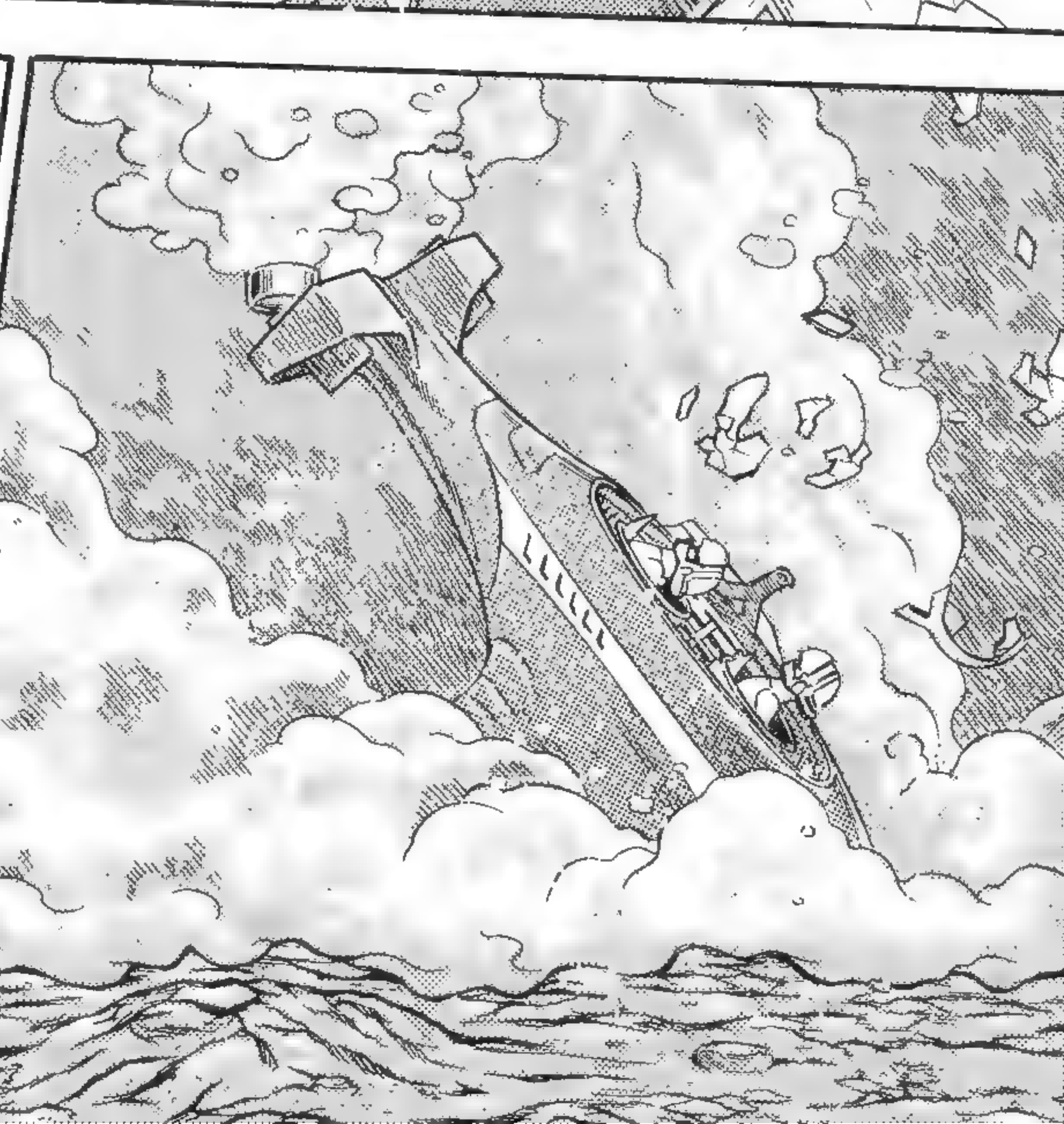
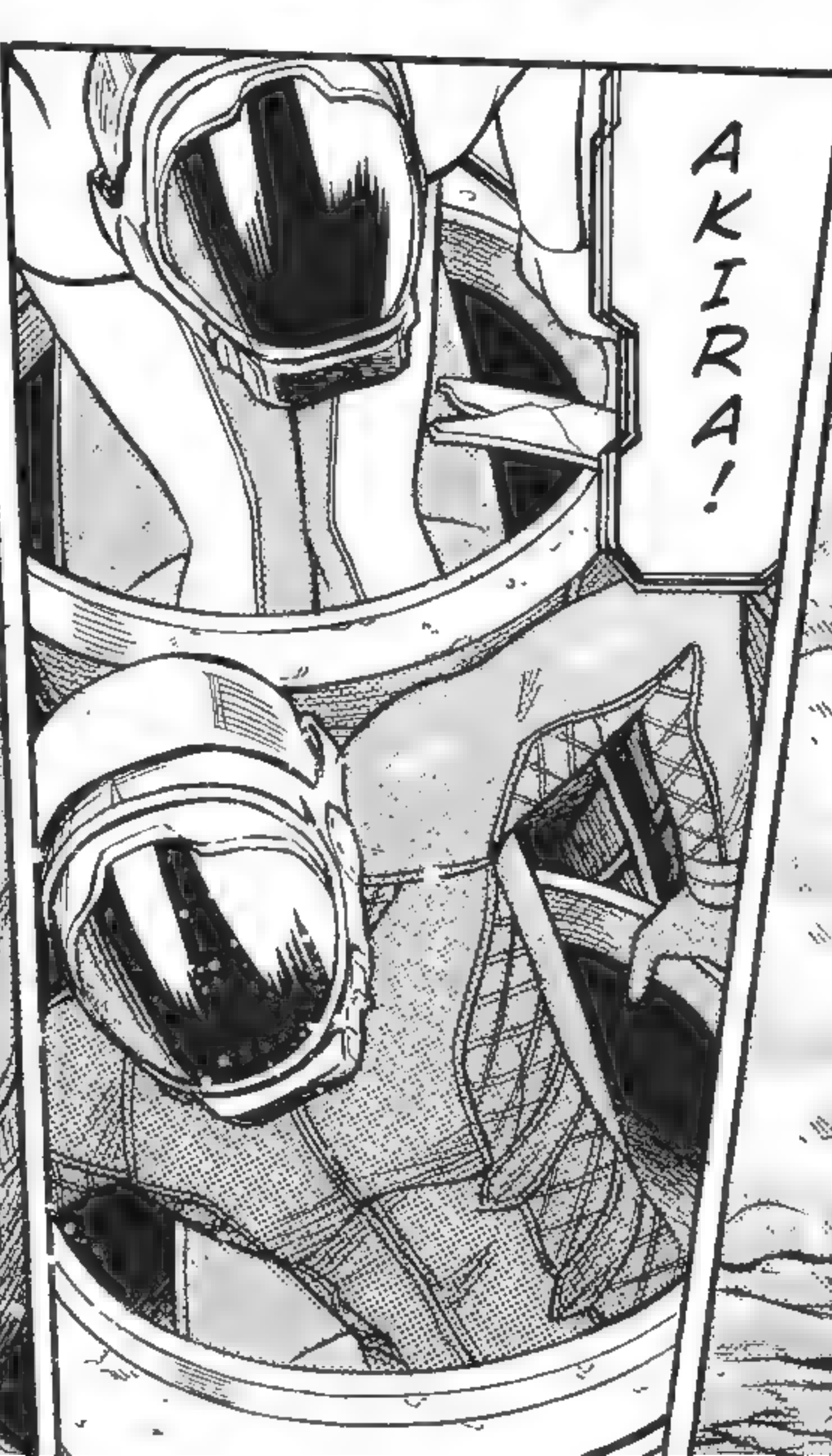
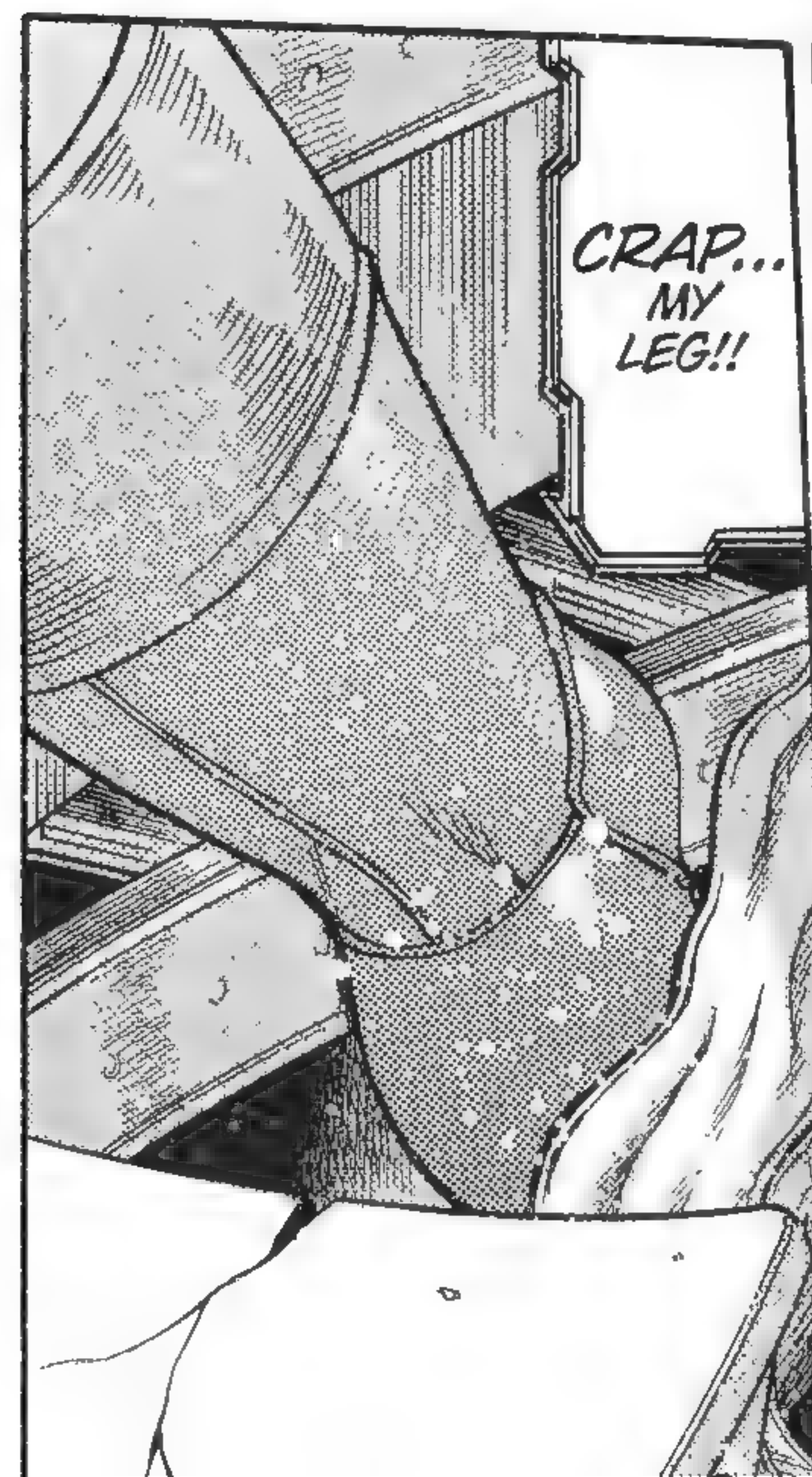
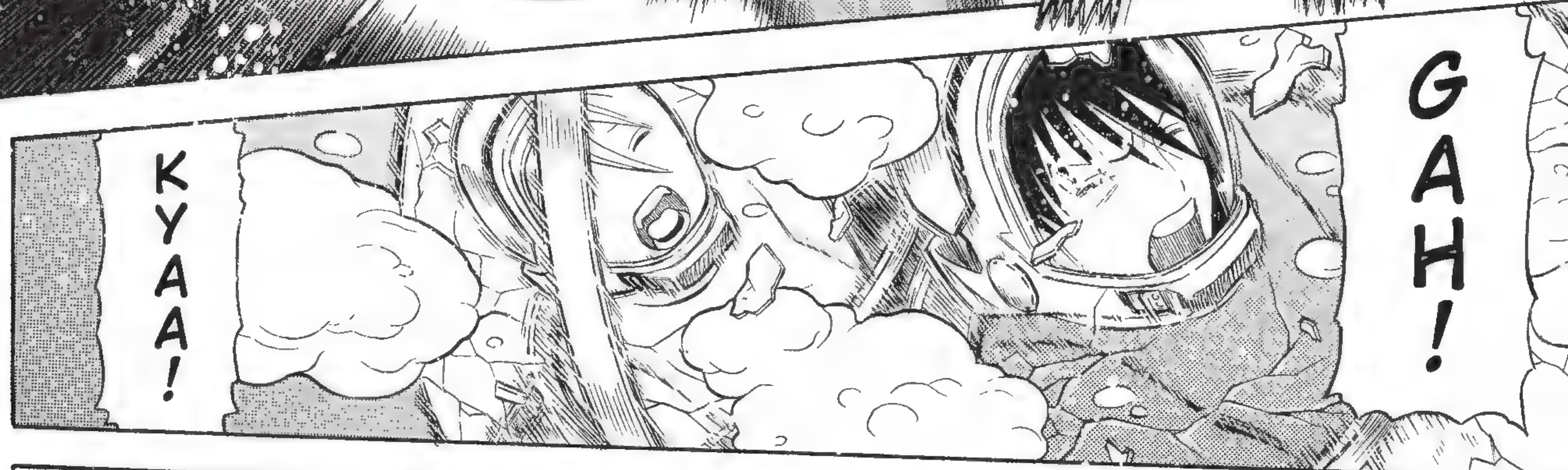


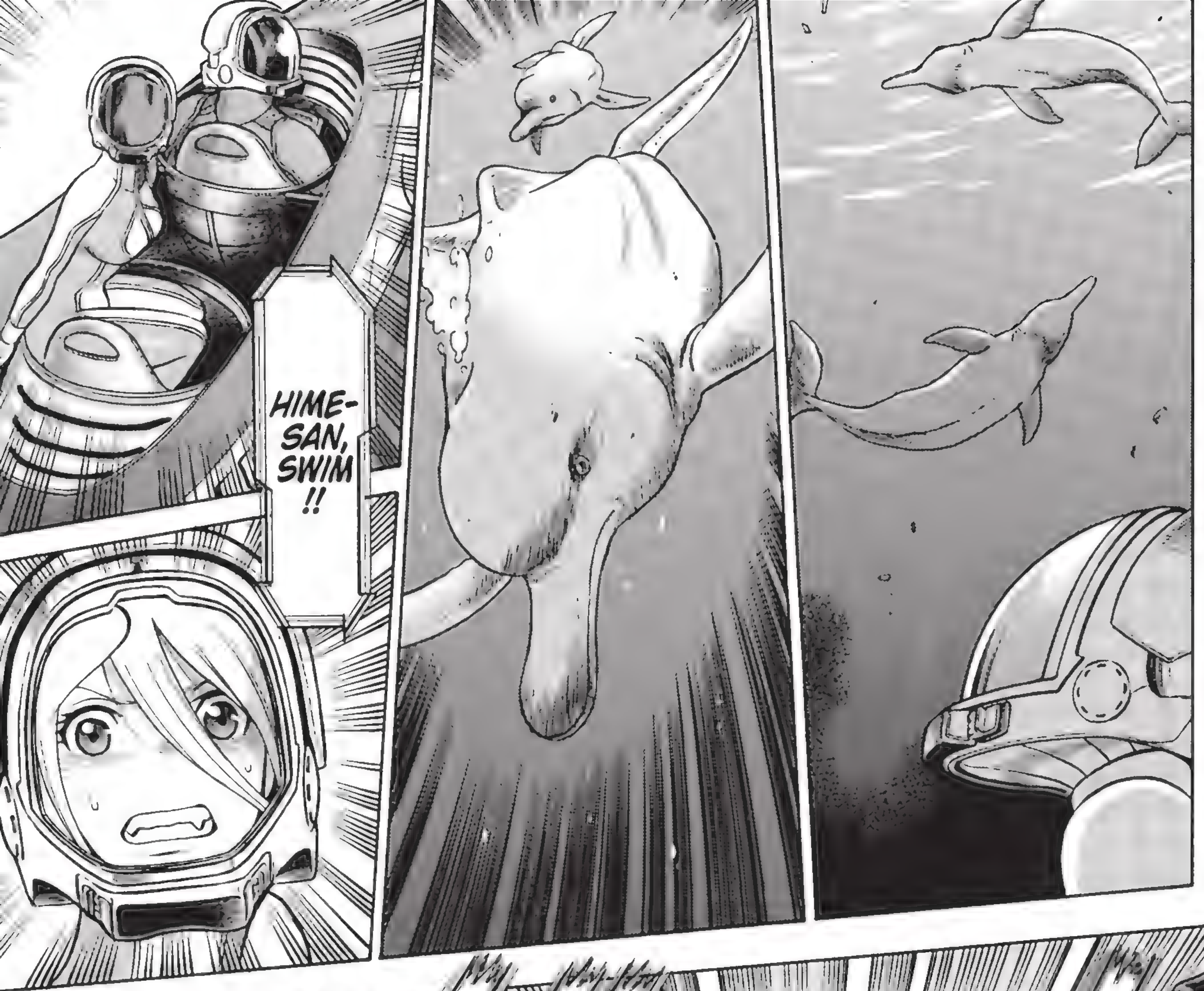
DOL-
PHINS
ARE
SWIM-
MING
WITH
US!!

AKIRA,
LOOK!

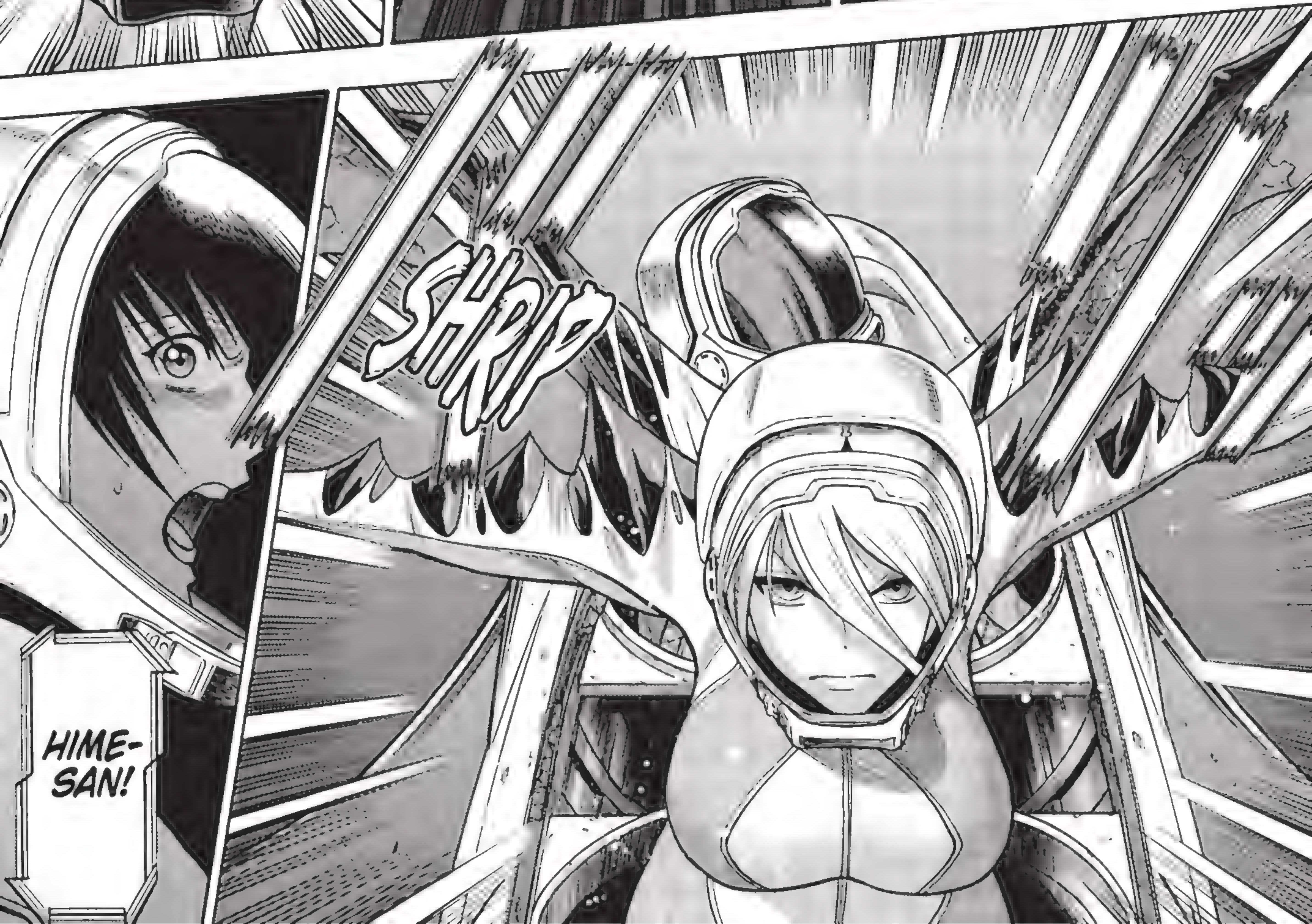
DOL-
PHINS!





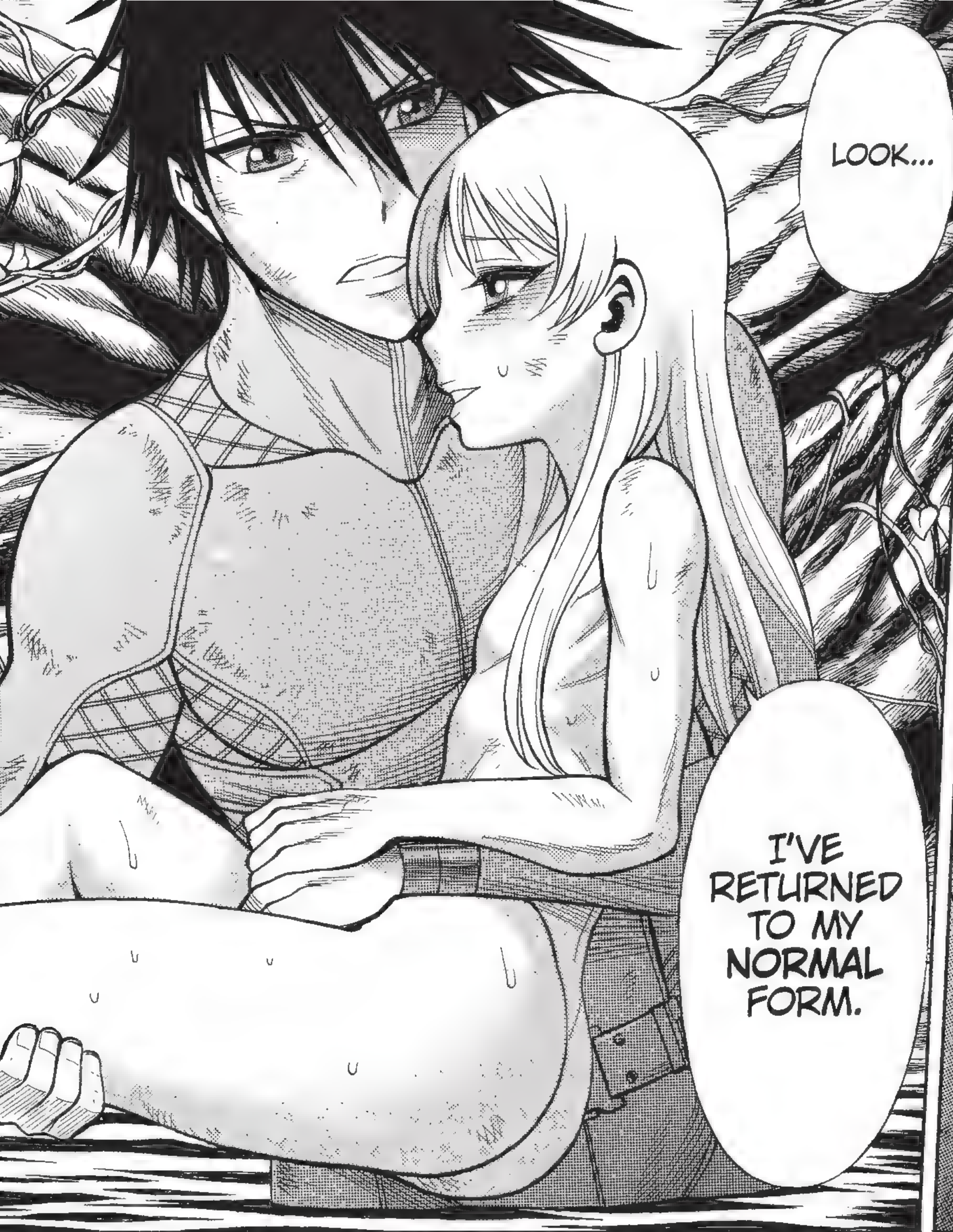


HIME-
SAN,
SWIM
!!



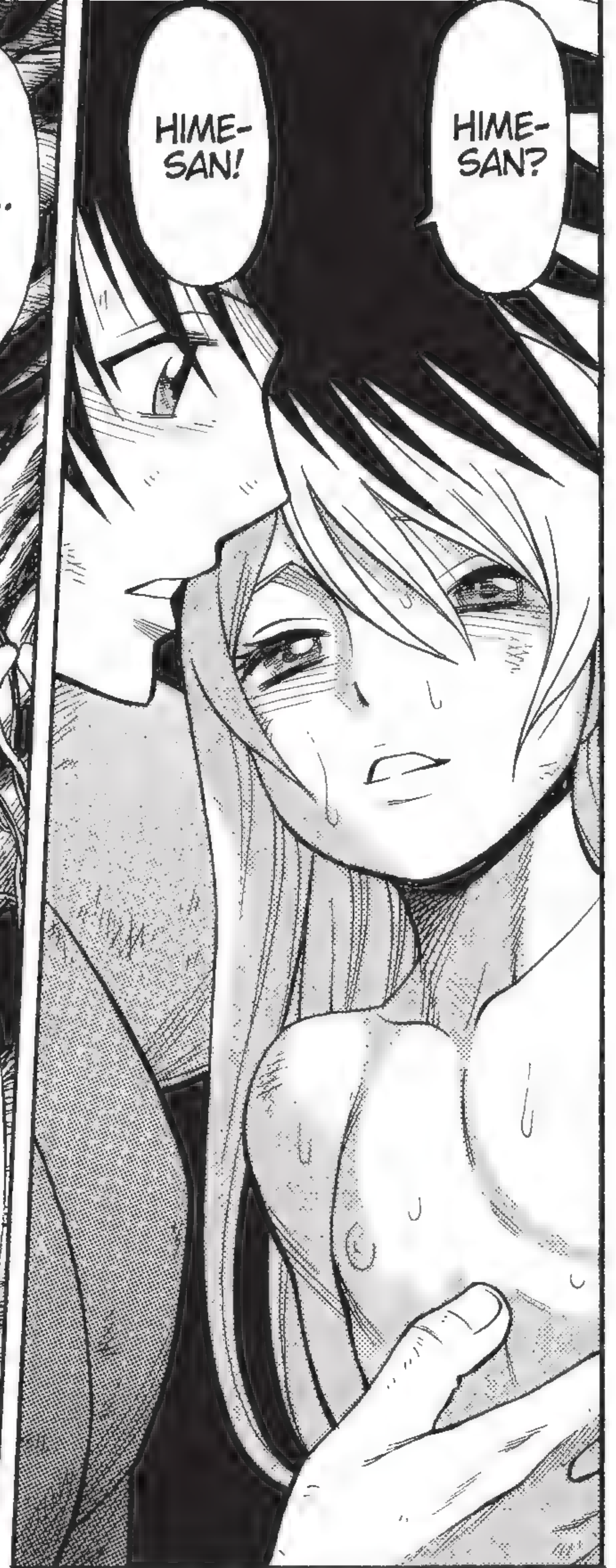
HIME-
SAN!





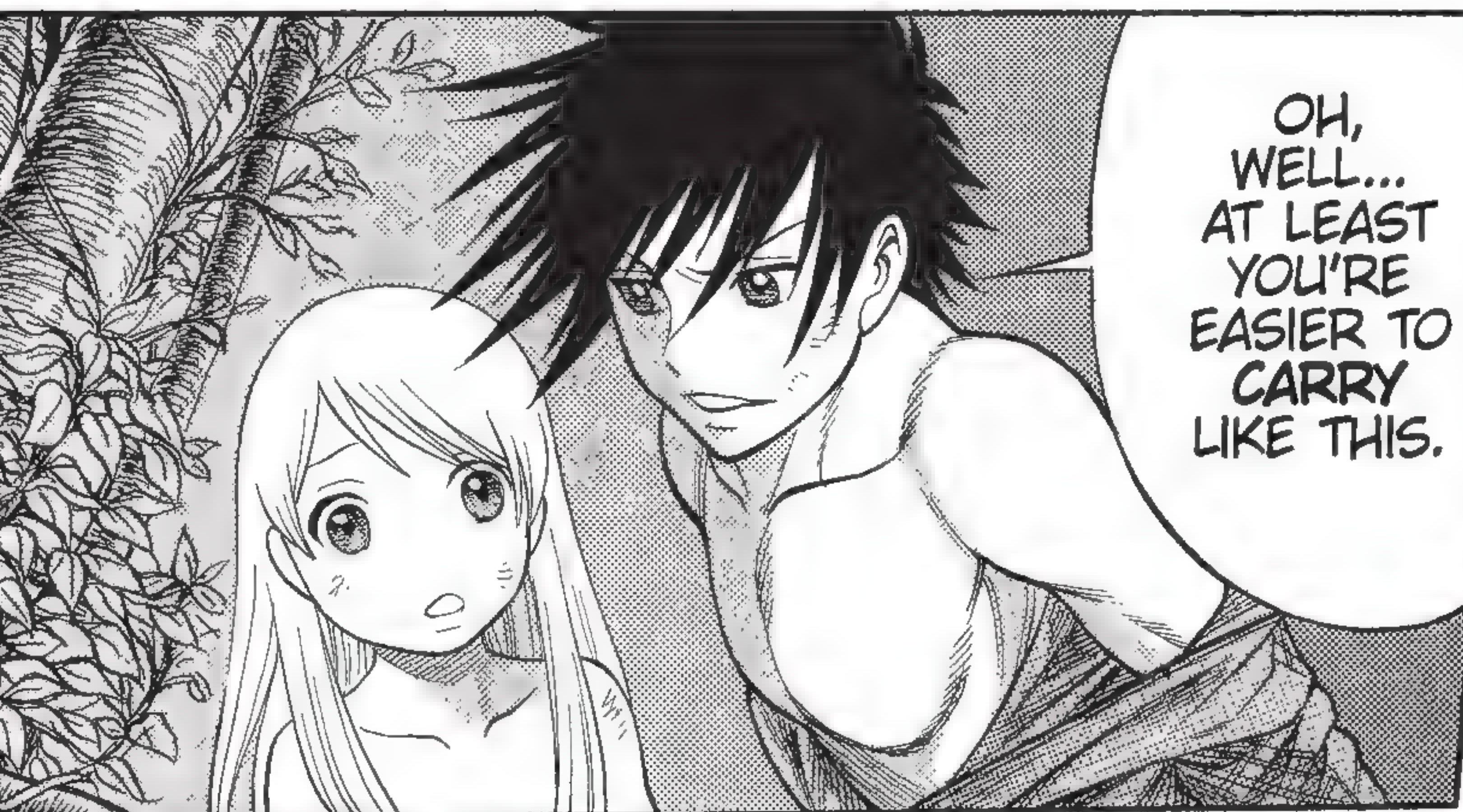
LOOK...

I'VE
RETURNED
TO MY
NORMAL
FORM.



HIME-
SAN!

HIME-
SAN?

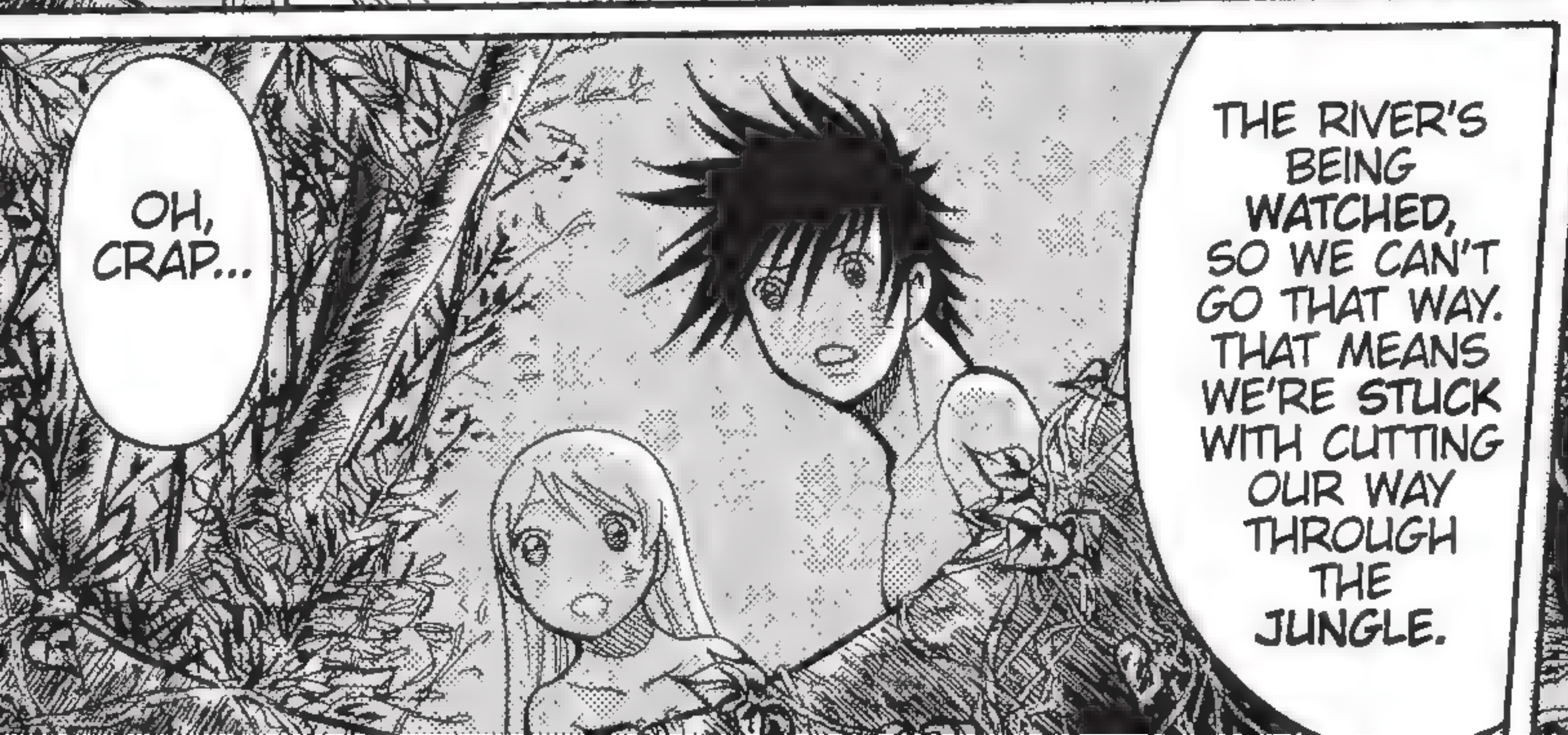


OH,
WELL...
AT LEAST
YOU'RE
EASIER TO
CARRY
LIKE THIS.



YOU DID
JUST USE
UP ALMOST
ALL OF
WHAT
POWER
YOU HAD
LEFT, YOU
DUMMY!

WELL,
DUH!



OH,
CRAP...

THE RIVER'S
BEING
WATCHED,
SO WE CAN'T
GO THAT WAY.
THAT MEANS
WE'RE STUCK
WITH CUTTING
OUR WAY
THROUGH
THE
JUNGLE.



NO...

GUESS WE'D BETTER PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US BEFORE THEY SEND OUT ANY MORE PURSUERS.

THERE WE GO.

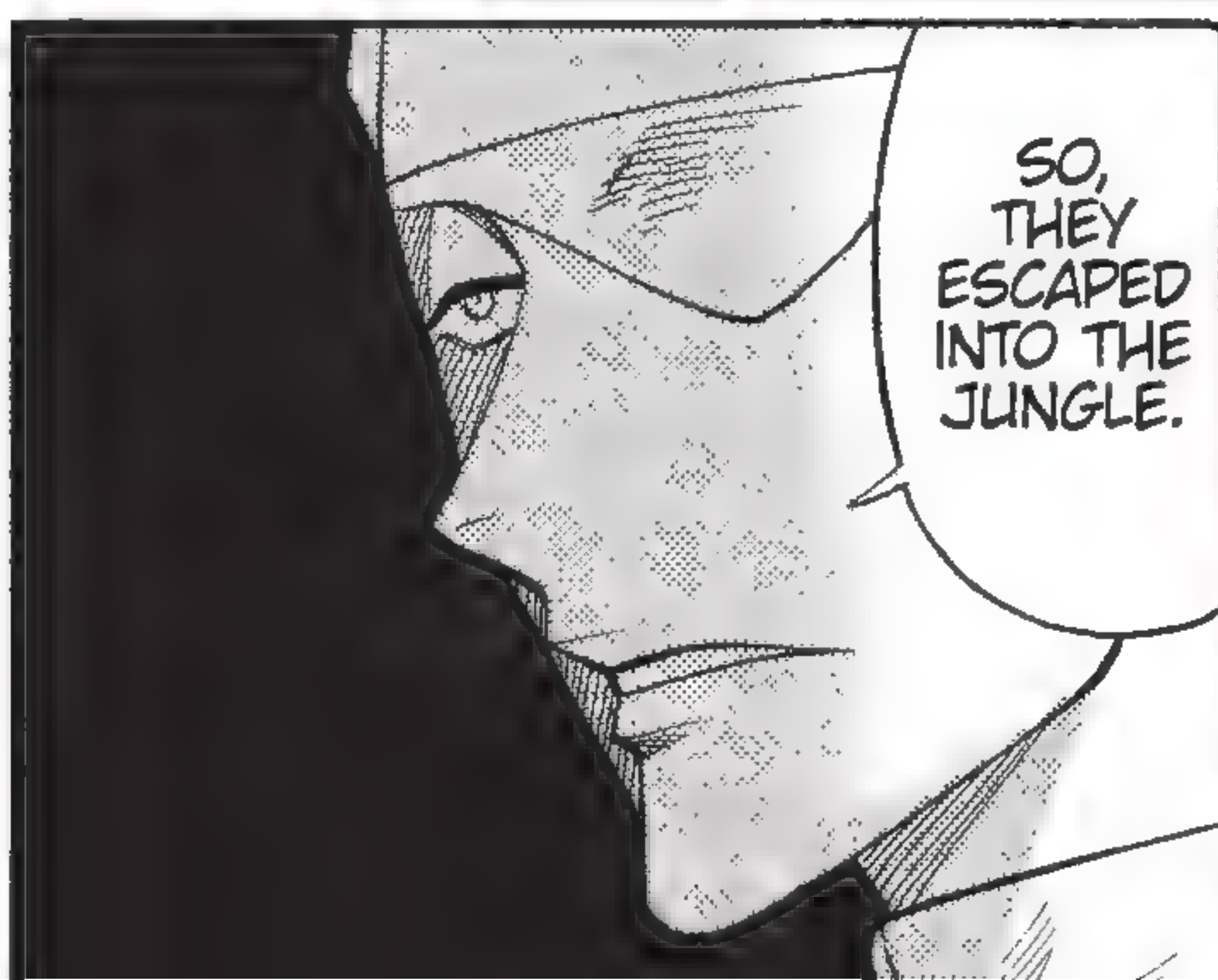


WE DIDN'T GET VERY FAR.



IS IT A CONFIRMED KILL?

NO, MY LORD. SIGNALS FROM PATROL DRONES #104 AND #102 WERE LOST AT THAT TIME AS WELL.



SO, THEY ESCAPED INTO THE JUNGLE.



RIVER PATROL DRONE #105. SELF-DESTRUCT ACTIVATION CONFIRMED.

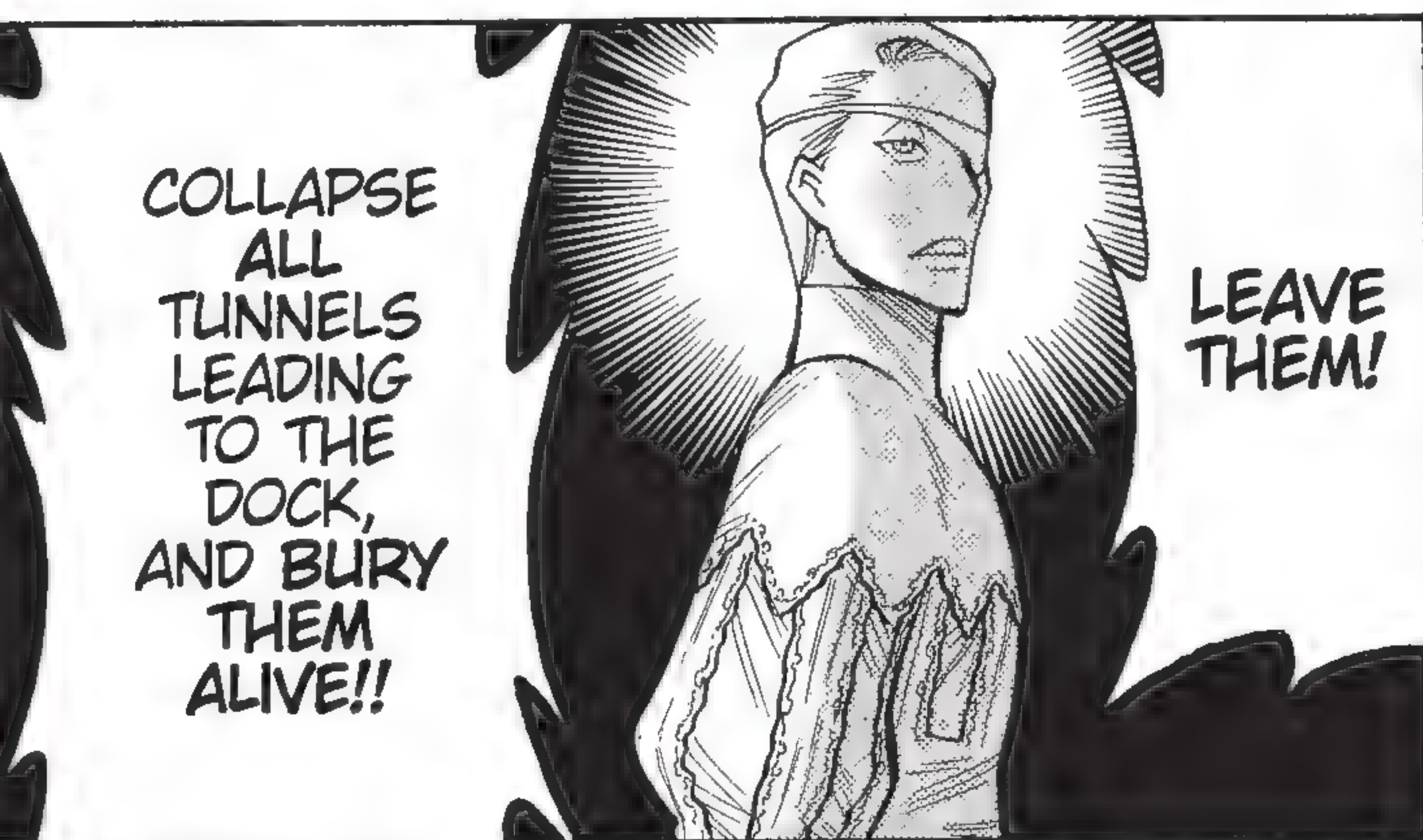
PASSIVE SONAR IN THE AREA ALSO PICKED UP THE SOUND OF AN EXPLOSION COMPARABLE WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF A SMALL, MANNED WATERCRAFT.



LET'S BOOK IT!



WHAT
SHALL WE DO
ABOUT THE
POCKET OF
RESISTANCE
THAT REMAINS
AT THE
UNDERGROUND
WET DOCK,
MY LORD?



COLLAPSE
ALL
TUNNELS
LEADING
TO THE
DOCK,
AND BURY
THEM
ALIVE!!

LEAVE
THEM!



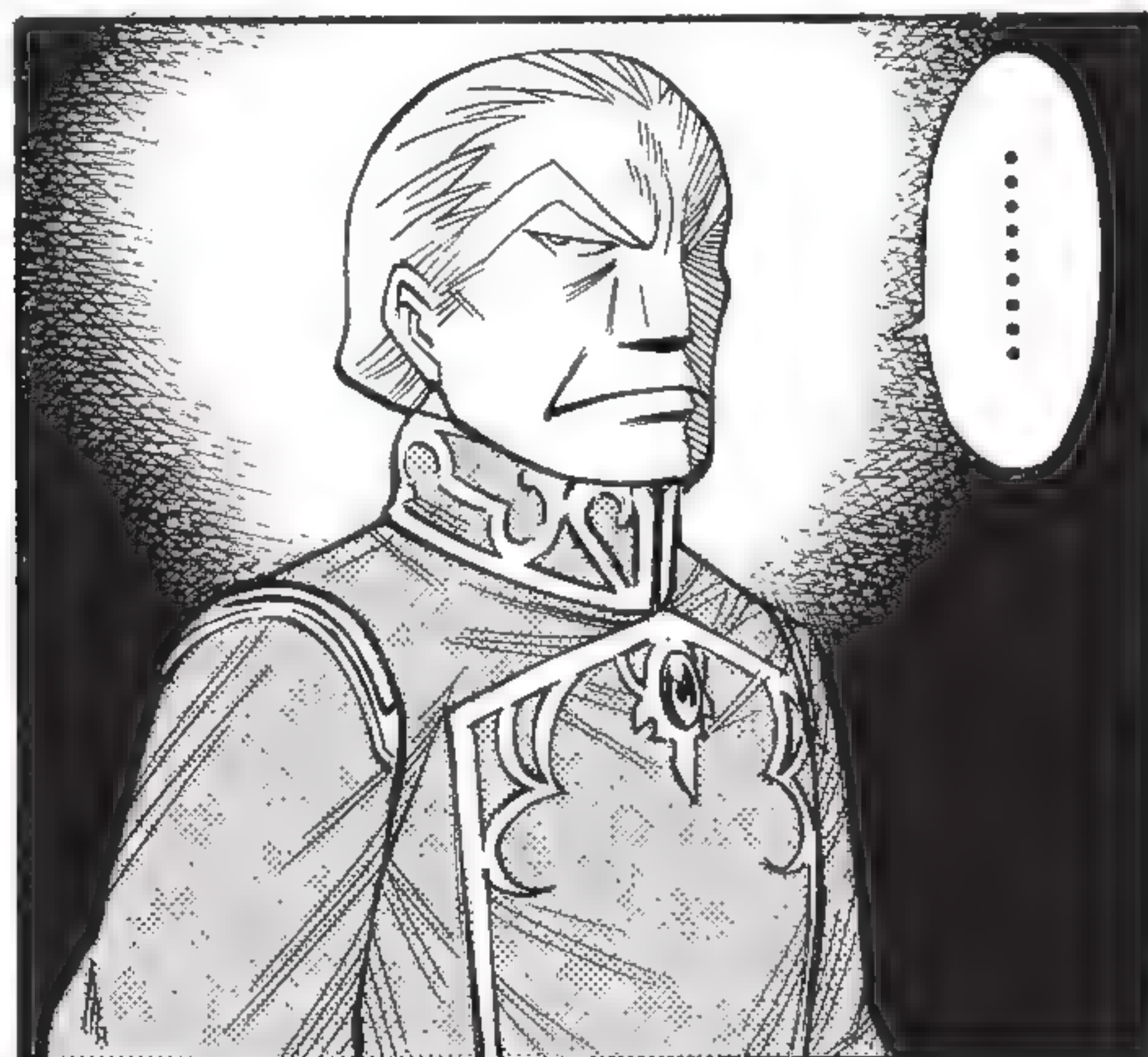
MY
LORD,
IS THAT
TRULY
THE
WISEST
COURSE?

COLLAPSING
ALL OF THE
TUNNELS
WILL ONCE
AGAIN
BLOCK THE
PATH TO
THE
"CRADLE."

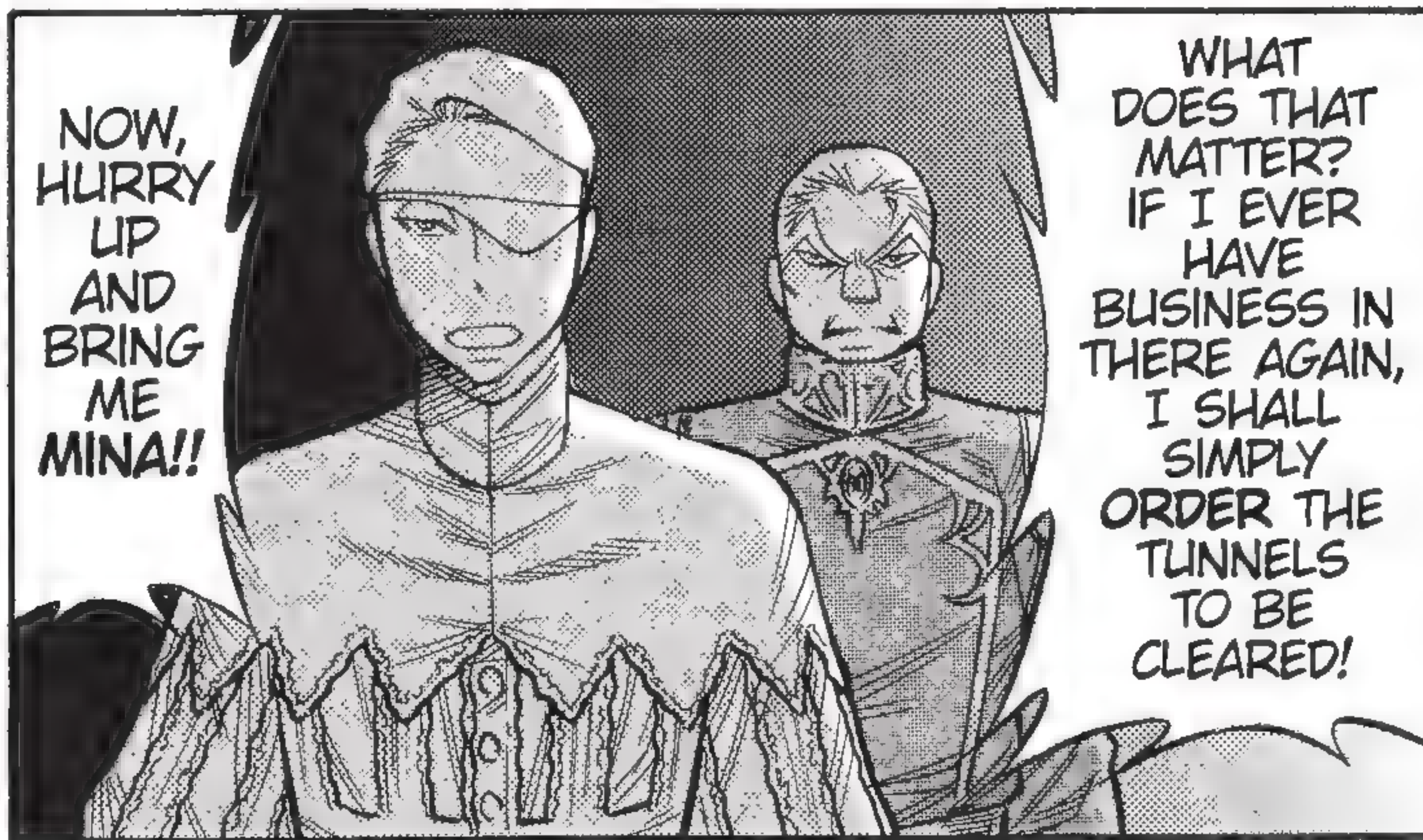


SEND OUT
A SQUAD
TO PURSUE
THEM!
MINA MUST
NOT BE
ALLOWED
TO
ESCAPE!!

RECAP-
TURE
HER AT
ANY
COST!

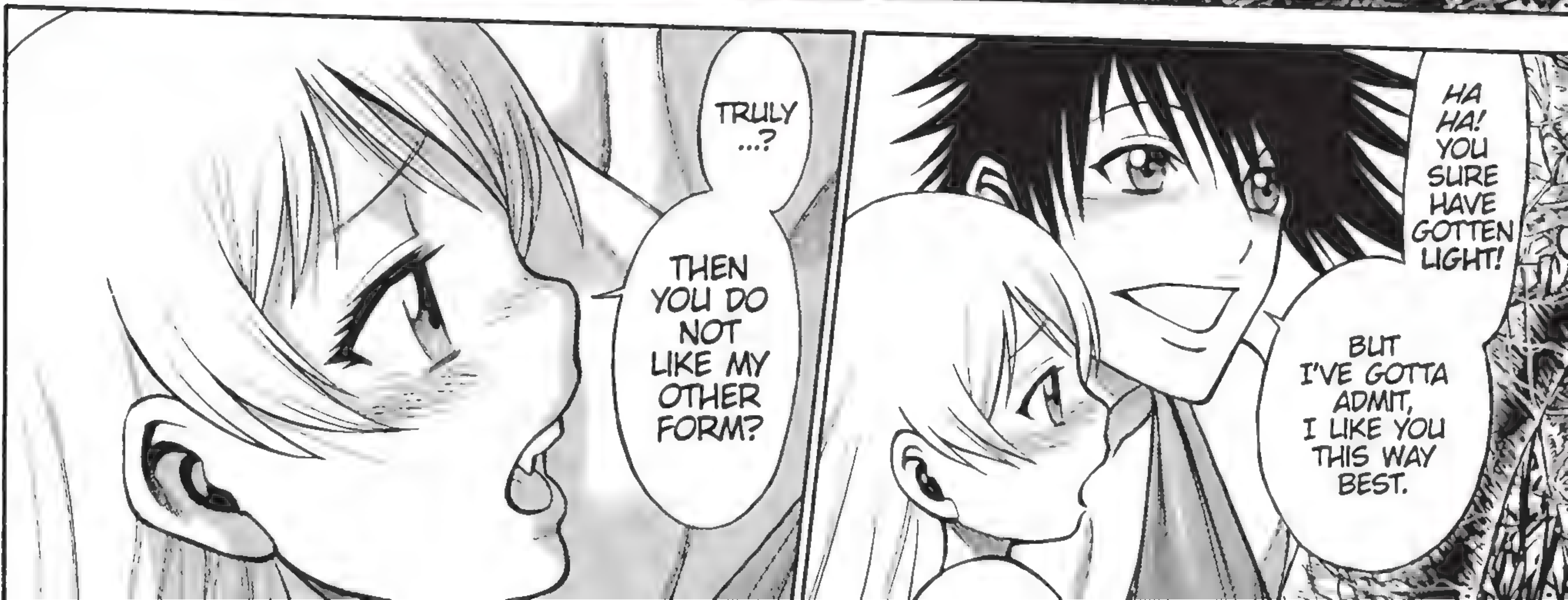


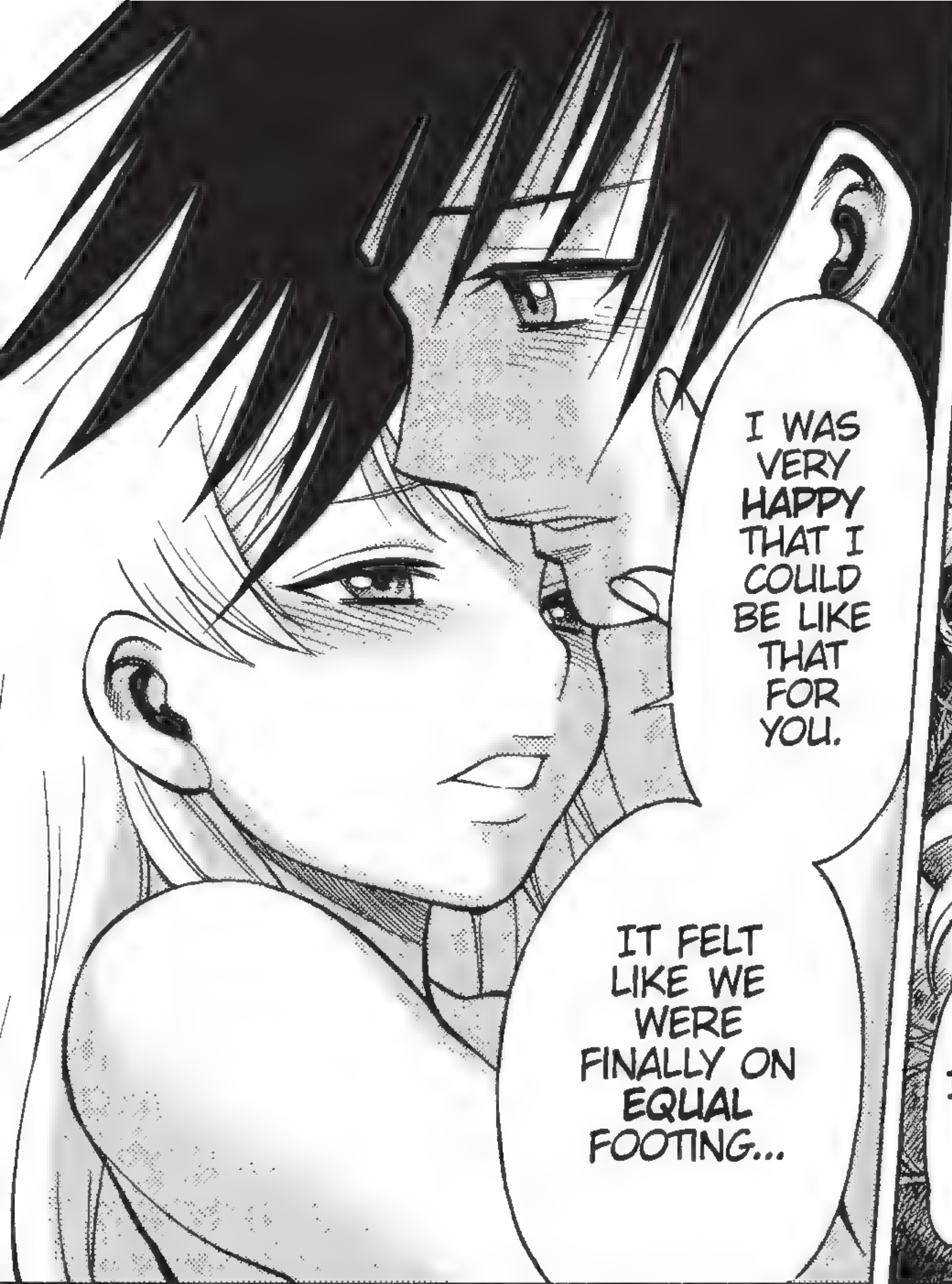
.....



NOW,
HURRY
UP
AND
BRING
ME
MINA!!

WHAT
DOES THAT
MATTER?
IF I EVER
HAVE
BUSINESS IN
THERE AGAIN,
I SHALL
SIMPLY
ORDER THE
TUNNELS
TO BE
CLEARED!





I WAS
VERY
HAPPY
THAT I
COULD
BE LIKE
THAT
FOR
YOU.

IT FELT
LIKE WE
WERE
FINALLY ON
EQUAL
FOOTING...



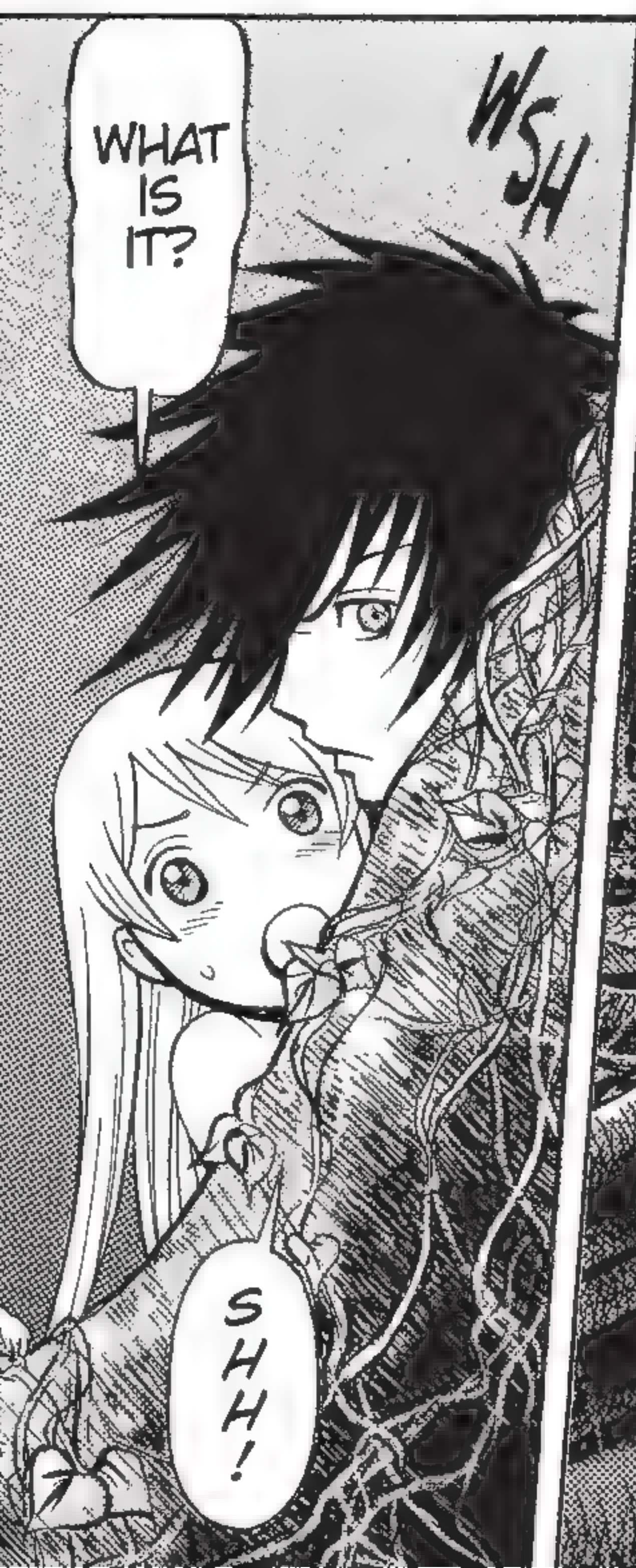
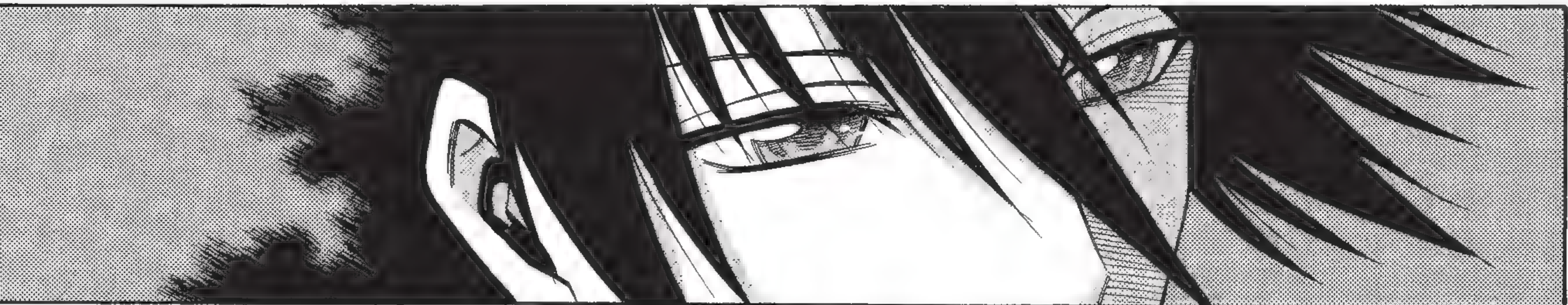
ERM,
NO...
I DON'T
NOT
LIKE IT.



IT'S JUST,
UH...
KINDA
DISTRACT-
ING,
YOU SEE.

ESPE-
CIALLY
WHEN I'M
CARRYING
YOU.

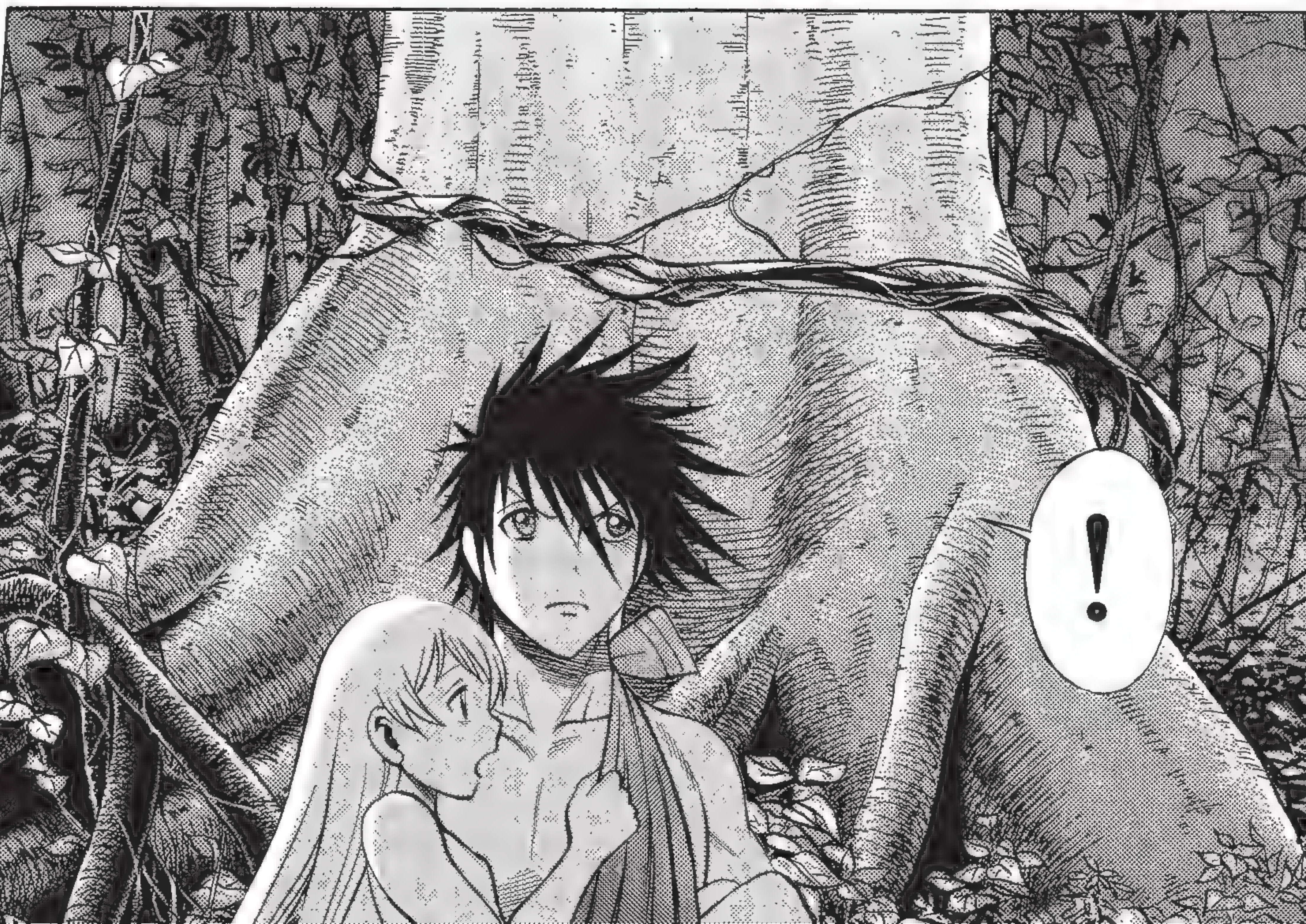
IDIOT!



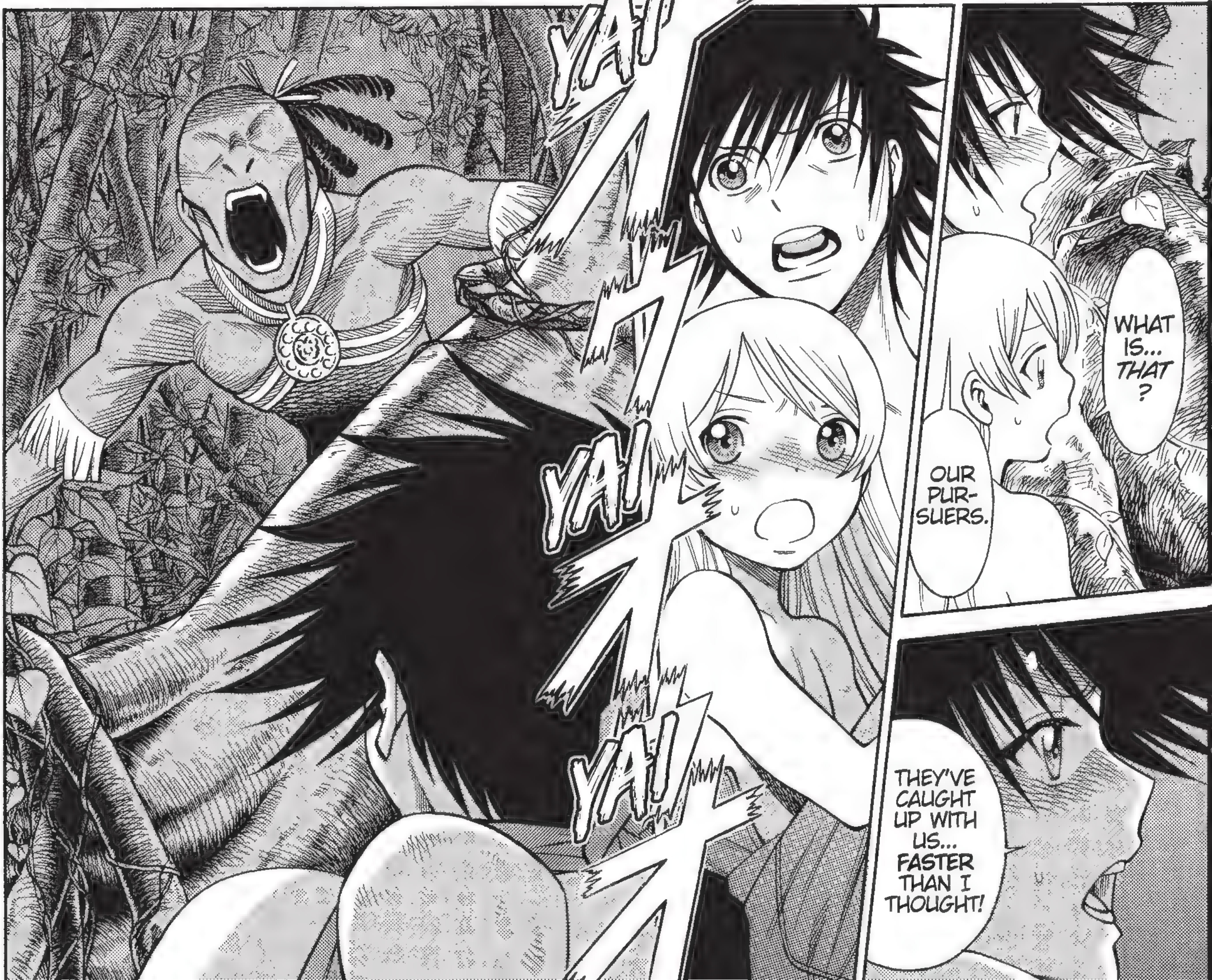
WHAT
IS
IT?

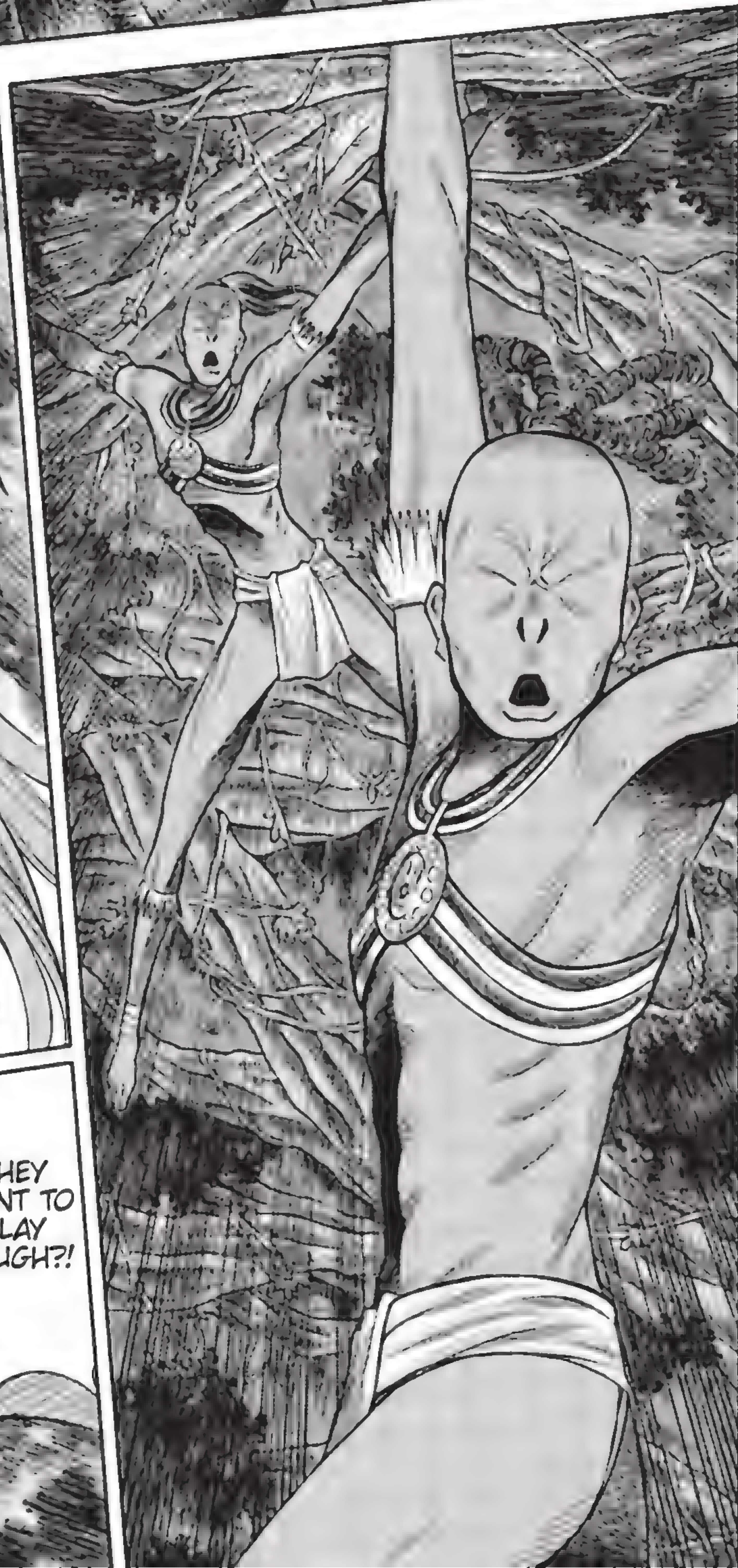
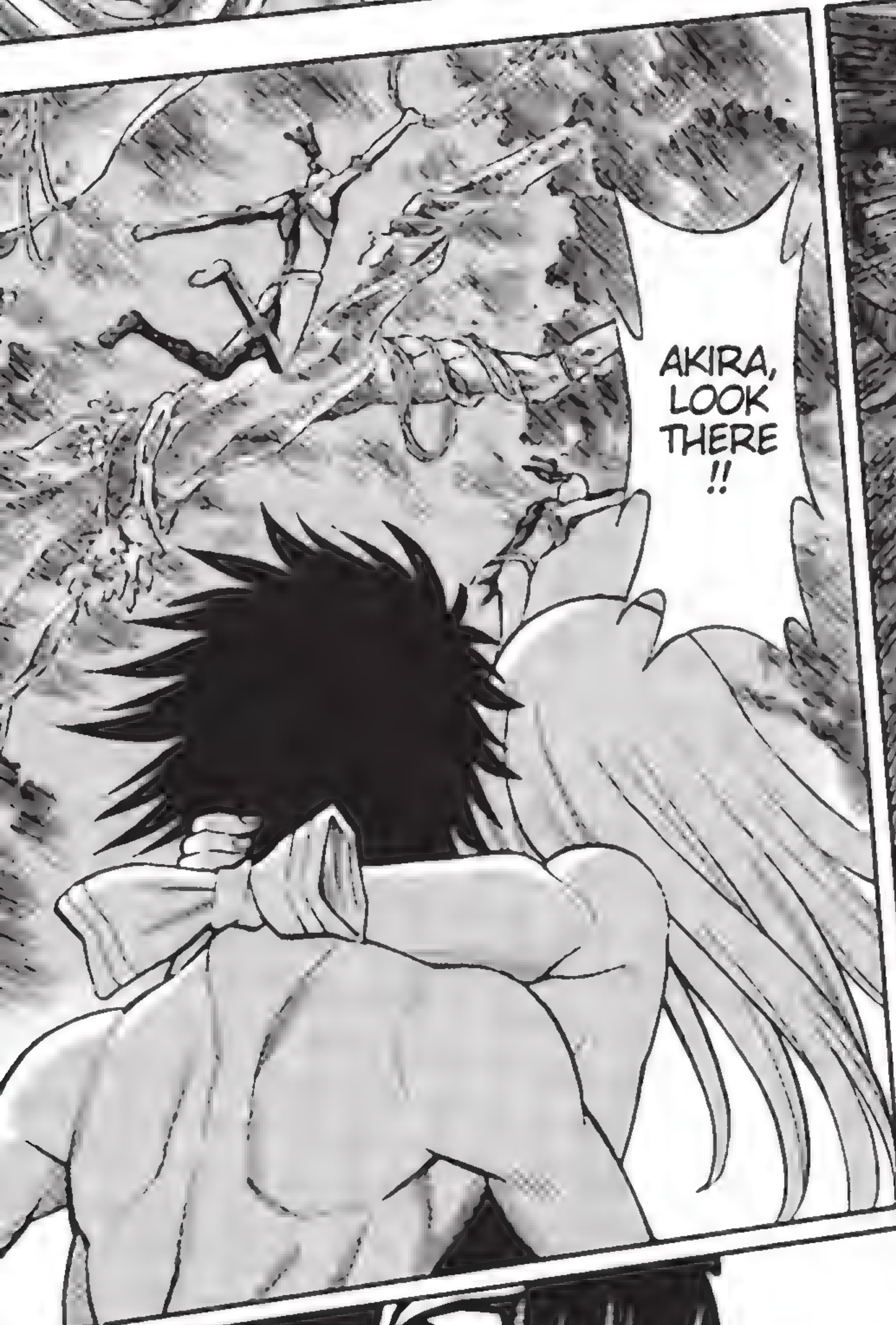
W
S
H

S
H
H!



!





HANG
ON
TIGHT,
HIME-
SAN!!

THEN
I'LL
HAVE
TO
STEP
UP MY
GAME
!!

THUMP THUMP

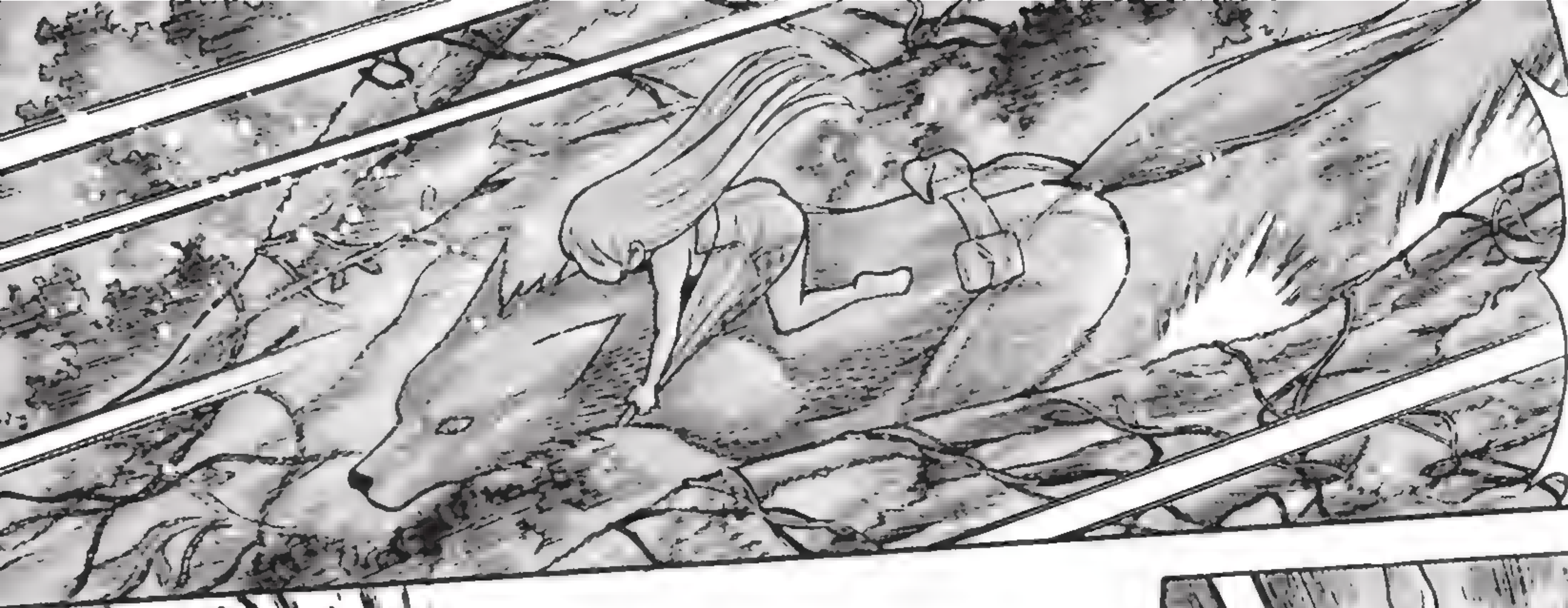
WHOOOSH

EED!

THUMP

AKIRA!

UGH!
NOW I
KNOW WHY
THERE
AREN'T ANY
LARGE
MAMMALS
NATIVE
TO THE
AMAZON!



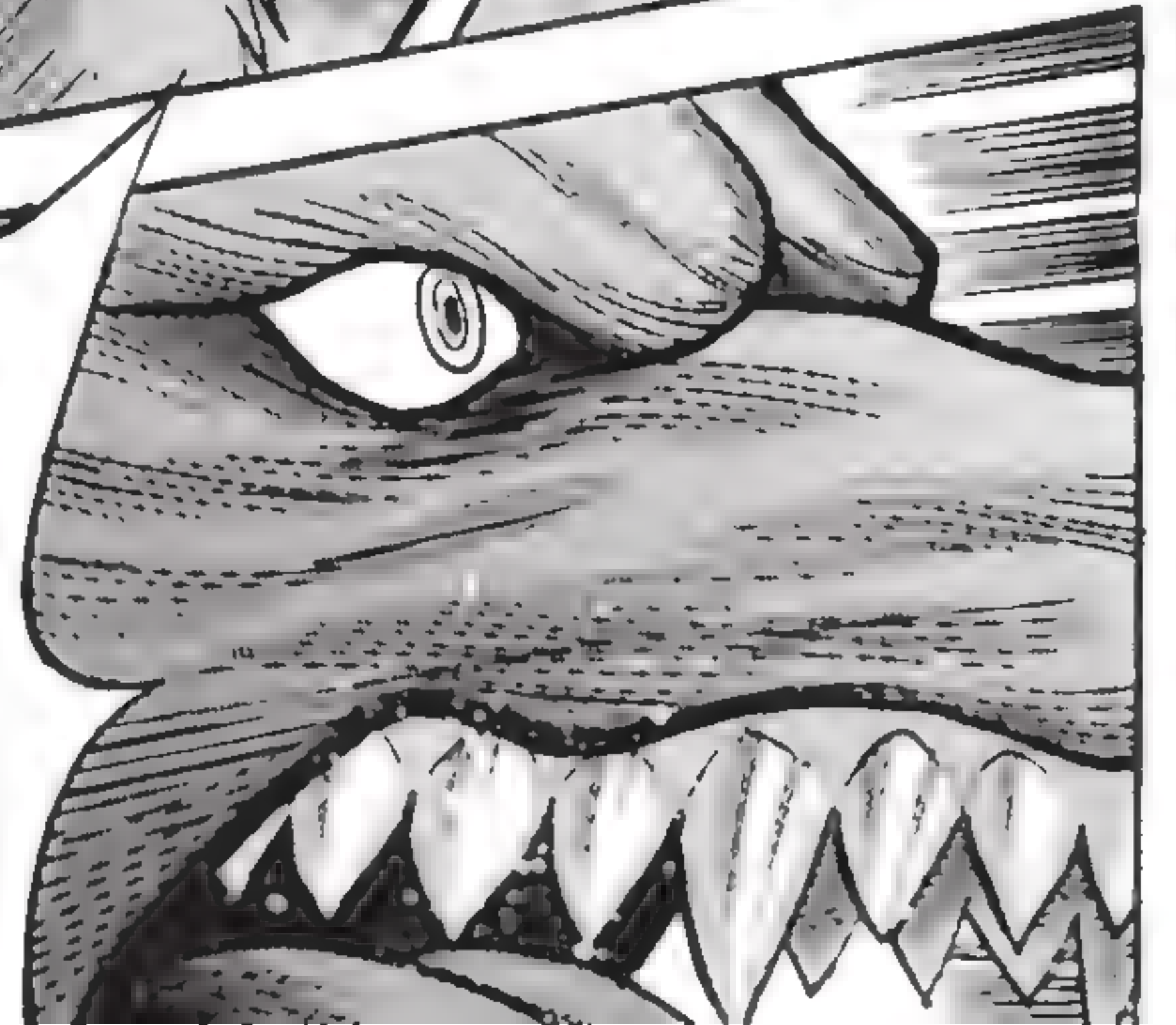
IT'S SO
HARD
TO GET
ANYWHERE,
RUNNING
ON FOOT!



SWOOSH

SHRAASH

GET
OUT
OF MY
WAY
!!

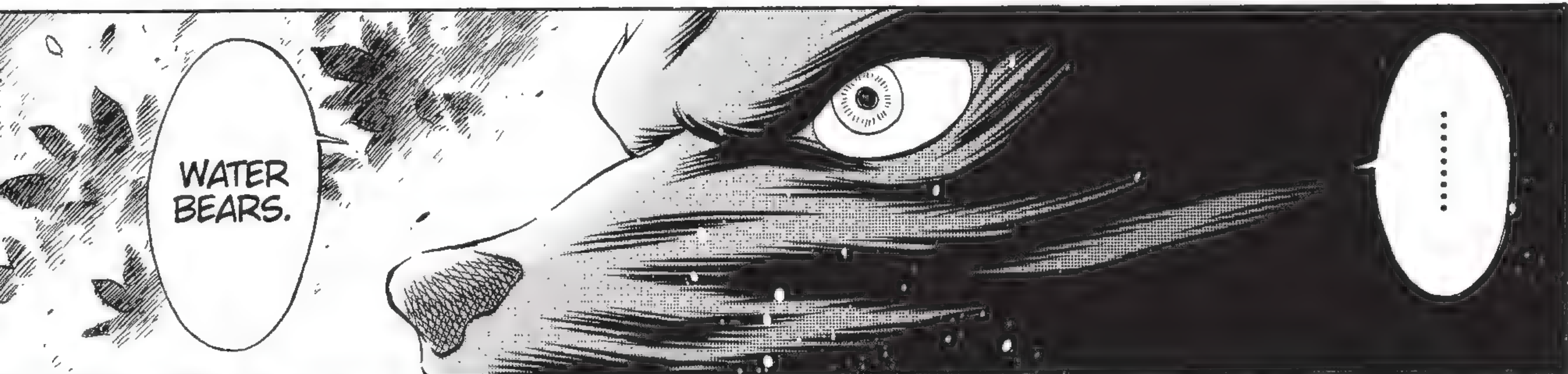


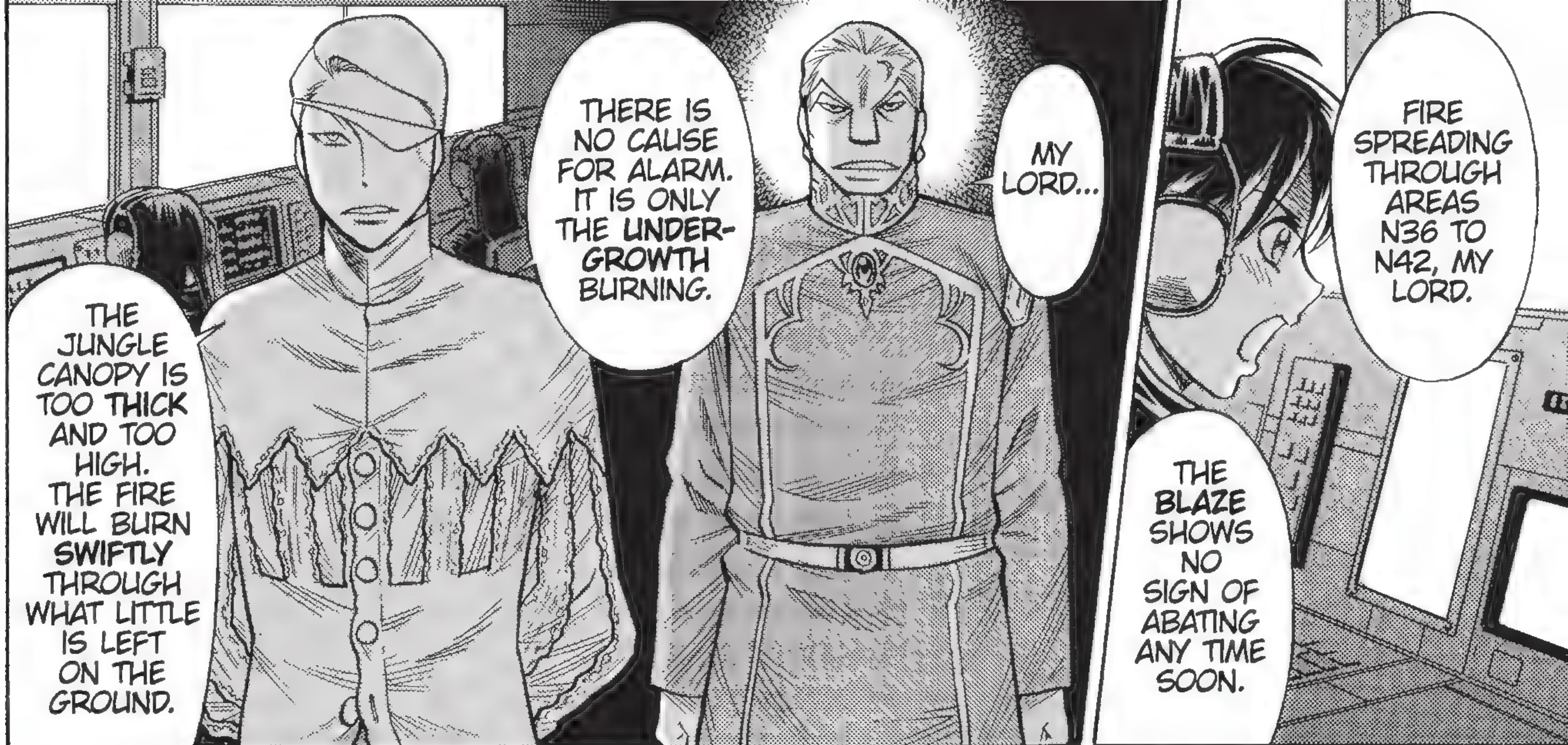


I CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE'D USE
"AGNI
BLOOD,"
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF A
DAMN
FOREST!!

ROZEN-
MANN,
YOU
BAS-
TARD!

WHAT
WAS
THAT
?!





THE JUNGLE CANOPY IS TOO THICK AND TOO HIGH. THE FIRE WILL BURN SWIFTLY THROUGH WHAT LITTLE IS LEFT ON THE GROUND.

THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM. IT IS ONLY THE UNDER-GROWTH BURNING.

MY LORD...

FIRE SPREADING THROUGH AREAS N36 TO N42, MY LORD.

THE BLAZE SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING ANY TIME SOON.



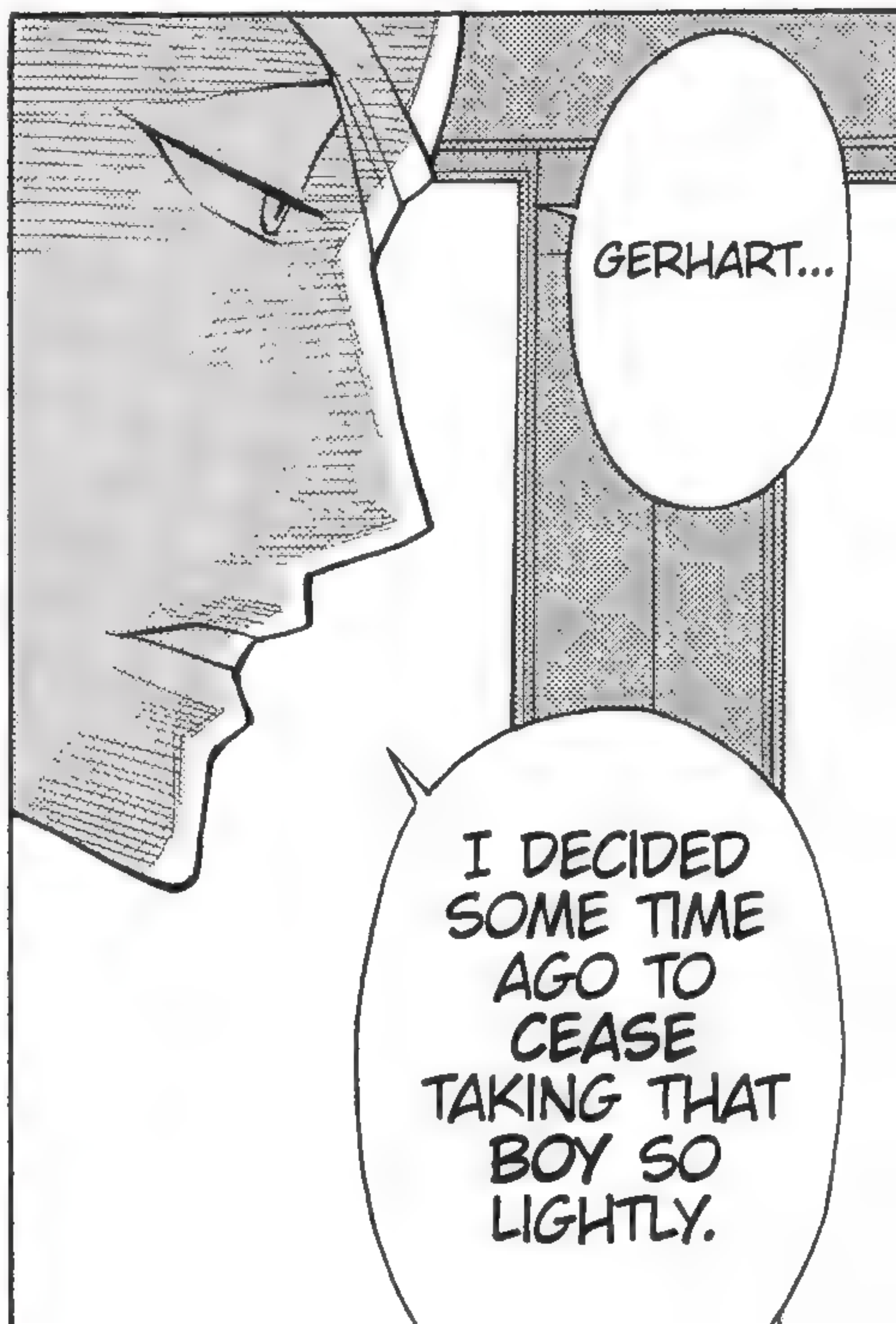
MORE THAN ONCE, I HAVE THOUGHT THAT I HAD FINALLY KILLED HIM. YET EACH TIME, HE CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD TO THWART ME.

NEVER AGAIN WILL I UNDER-ESTIMATE KABURAGI AKIRA, GERHART. NEVER AGAIN!



PERHAPS, MY LORD. BUT THE FIRE IS MOVING TOO QUICKLY...

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY BE UNABLE TO ESCAPE THE FLAMES IN TIME.



GERHART...

I DECIDED SOME TIME AGO TO CEASE TAKING THAT BOY SO LIGHTLY.



THEY
MUST
NOT BE
ALLOWED
TO
ESCAPE
ME.

ONCE THE
FIRE HAS
ABATED,
SEND OUT
A PARTY TO
SEARCH
THROUGH
THE
ASHES.

SKFF

SKFF

NOT
GETTING
ANY
SIGN OF
MOVE-
MENT
HERE,
SIR.

NO SIGN
OF OUR
TARGET'S
CORPSES,
EITHER.

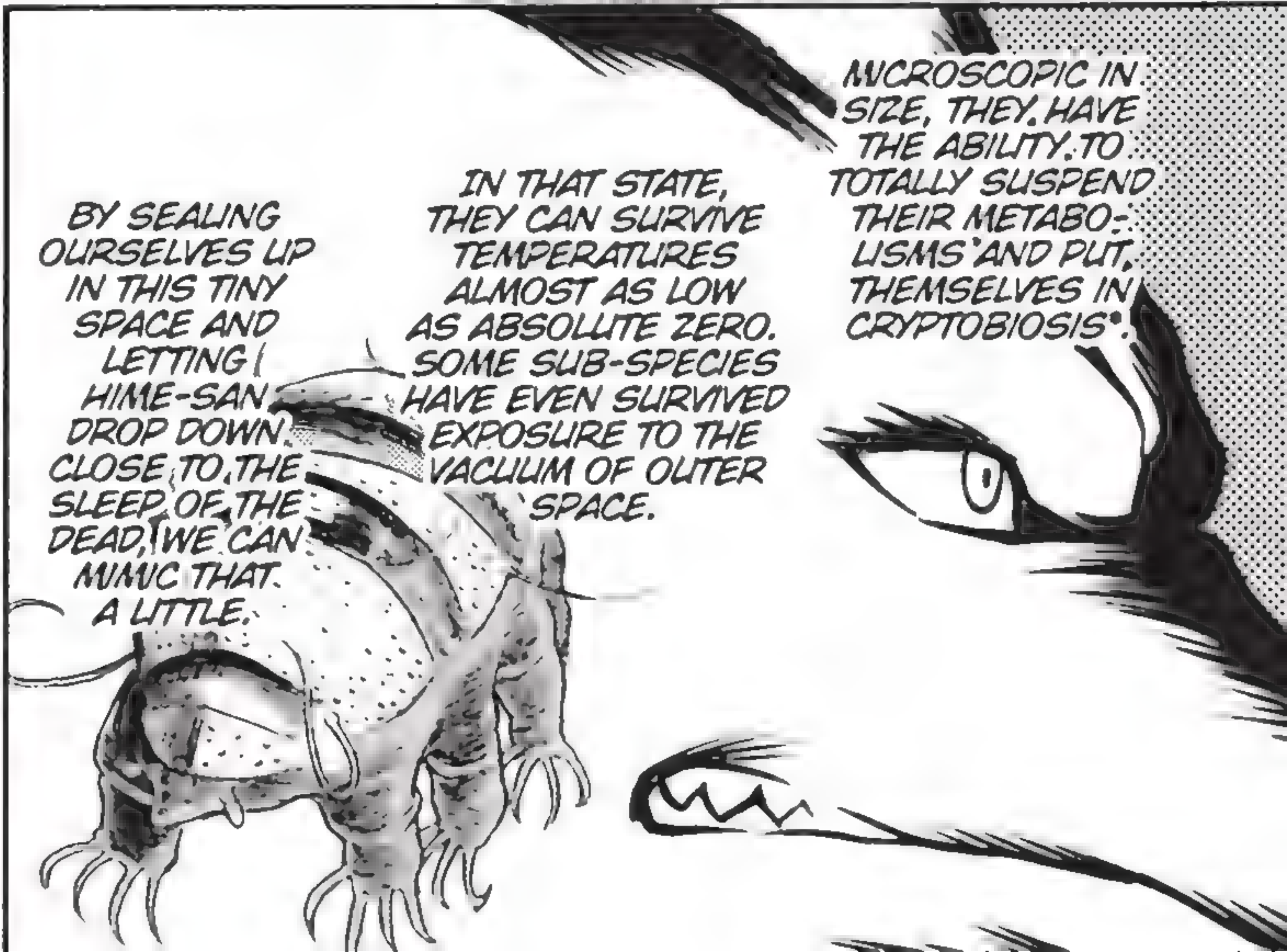
OUR
ORDERS
ARE NOT
TO
RETURN
UNTIL
WE FIND
THEM.
WE KEEP
LOOKING.

HOW
LONG
WE
GOING
TO KEEP
THIS UP,
SIR?



WATER BEARS--
ALSO CALLED
"MOSS PIGLETS"
OR "TARDIGRADES"--
ARE CREATURES
THAT CAN SURVIVE
ANYWHERE. THEY'RE
FOUND AT THE POLES
AND AT THE
EQUATOR. THEY LIVE
IN DEEP OCEAN
TRENCHES, ATOP
HIGH MOUNTAINS,
AND EVEN IN BOILING
HOT SPRINGS.

*Cryptobiosis is the death-like state of life that some organisms can enter in response to adverse environmental conditions.



BY SEALING
OURSELVES UP
IN THIS TINY
SPACE AND
LETTING
HIME-SAN
DROP DOWN
CLOSE TO THE
SLEEP OF THE
DEAD, WE CAN
MIMIC THAT
A LITTLE.

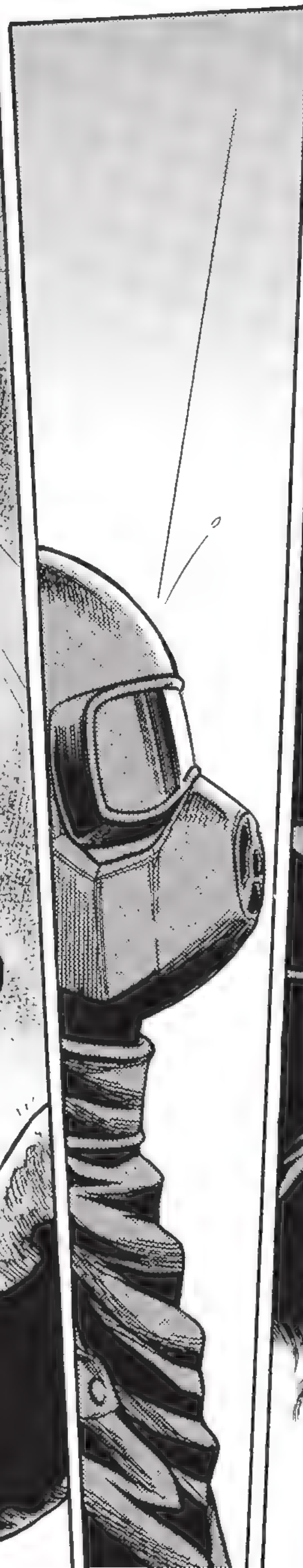
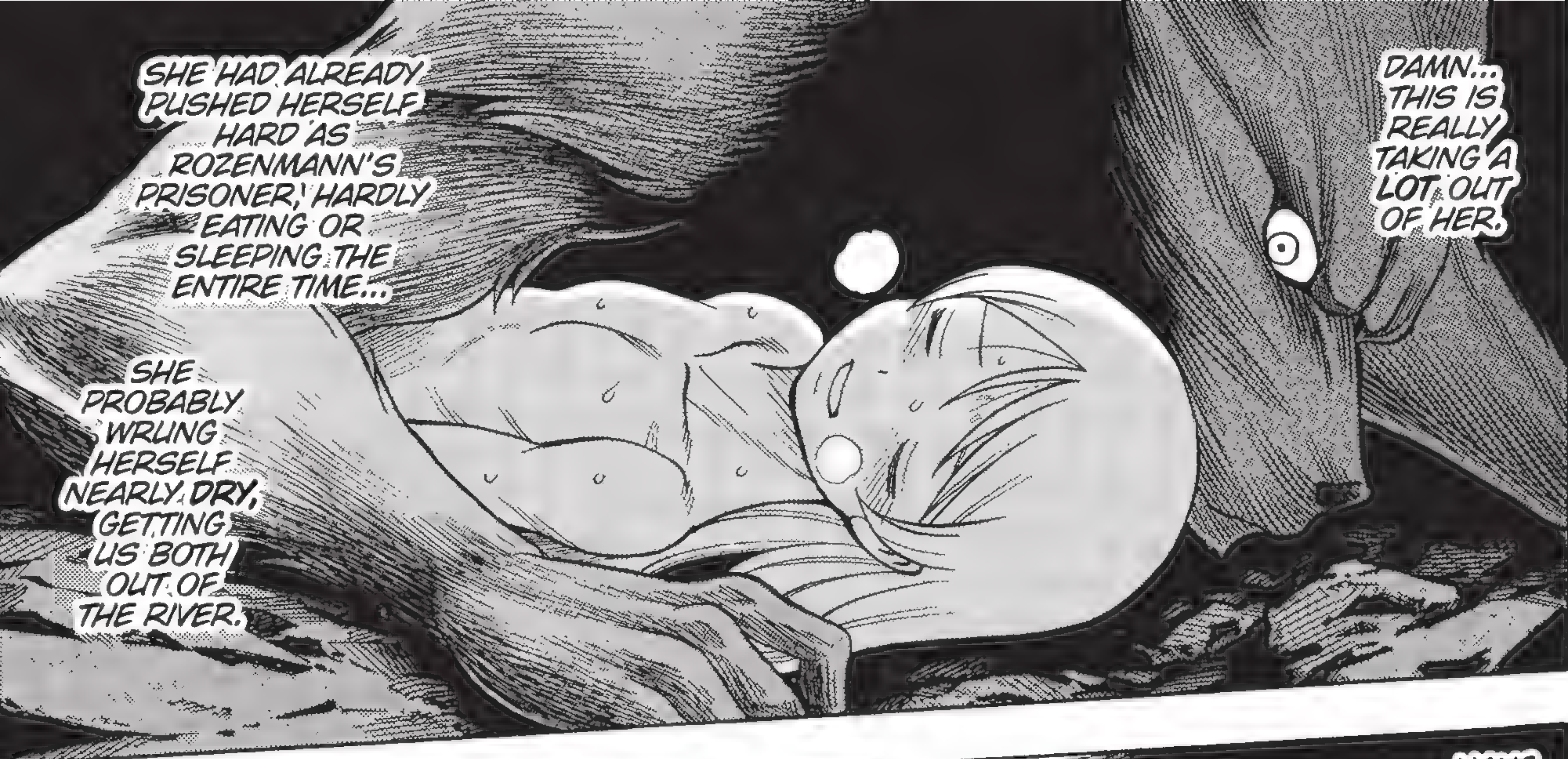
IN THAT STATE,
THEY CAN SURVIVE
TEMPERATURES
ALMOST AS LOW
AS ABSOLUTE ZERO.
SOME SUB-SPECIES
HAVE EVEN SURVIVED
EXPOSURE TO THE
VACUUM OF OUTER
SPACE.

MICROSCOPIC IN
SIZE, THEY HAVE
THE ABILITY TO
TOTALLY SUSPEND
THEIR METABO-
LISMS AND PUT
THEMSELVES IN
CRYPTOBIOSIS*.

SHE HAD ALREADY
PUSHED HERSELF
HARD AS
ROZENMANN'S
PRISONER, HARDLY
EATING OR
SLEEPING THE
ENTIRE TIME...

SHE
PROBABLY
WRUNG
HERSELF
NEARLY DRY,
GETTING
US BOTH
OUT OF
THE RIVER.

DAMN...
THIS IS
REALLY
TAKING A
LOT OUT
OF HER.



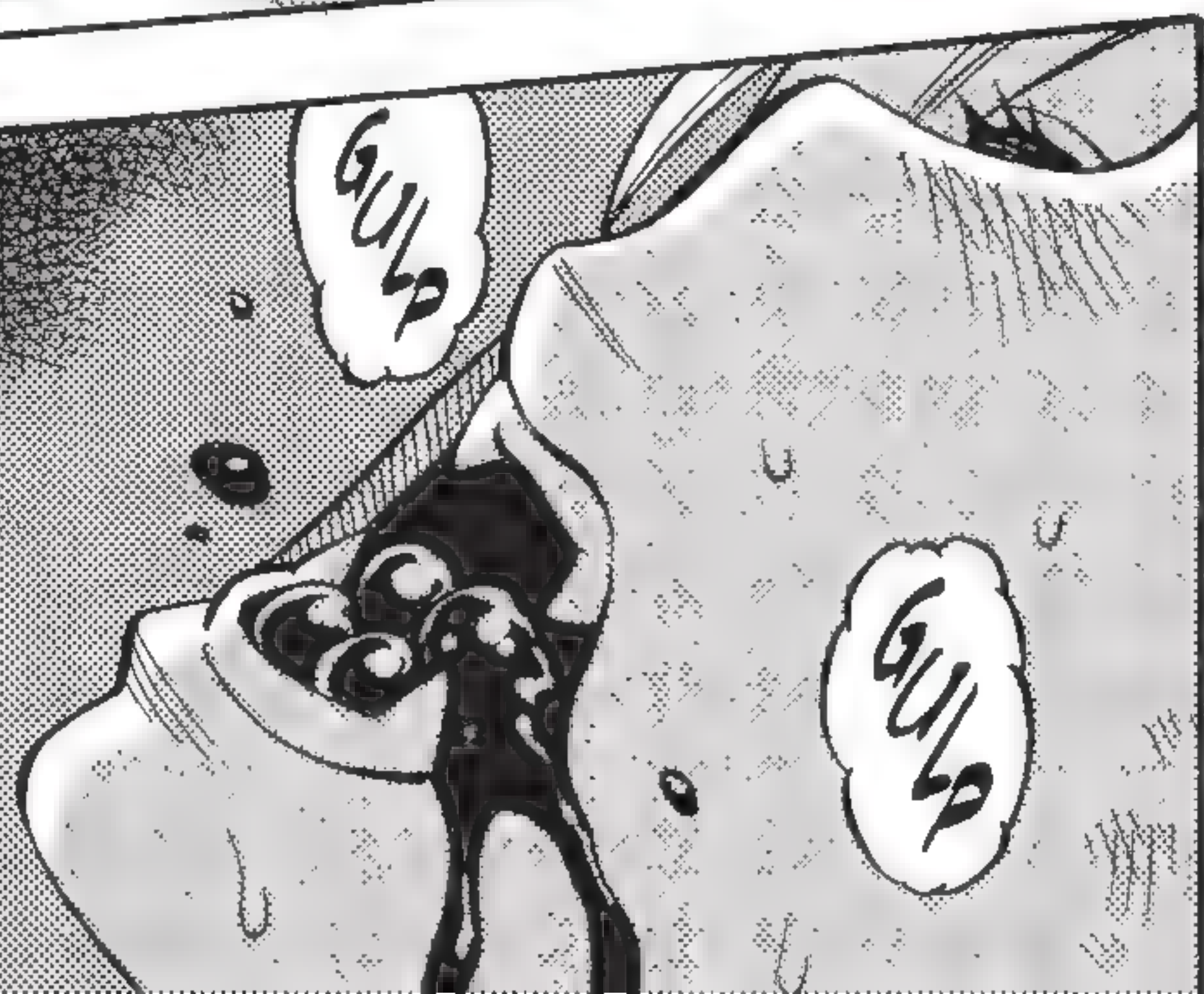
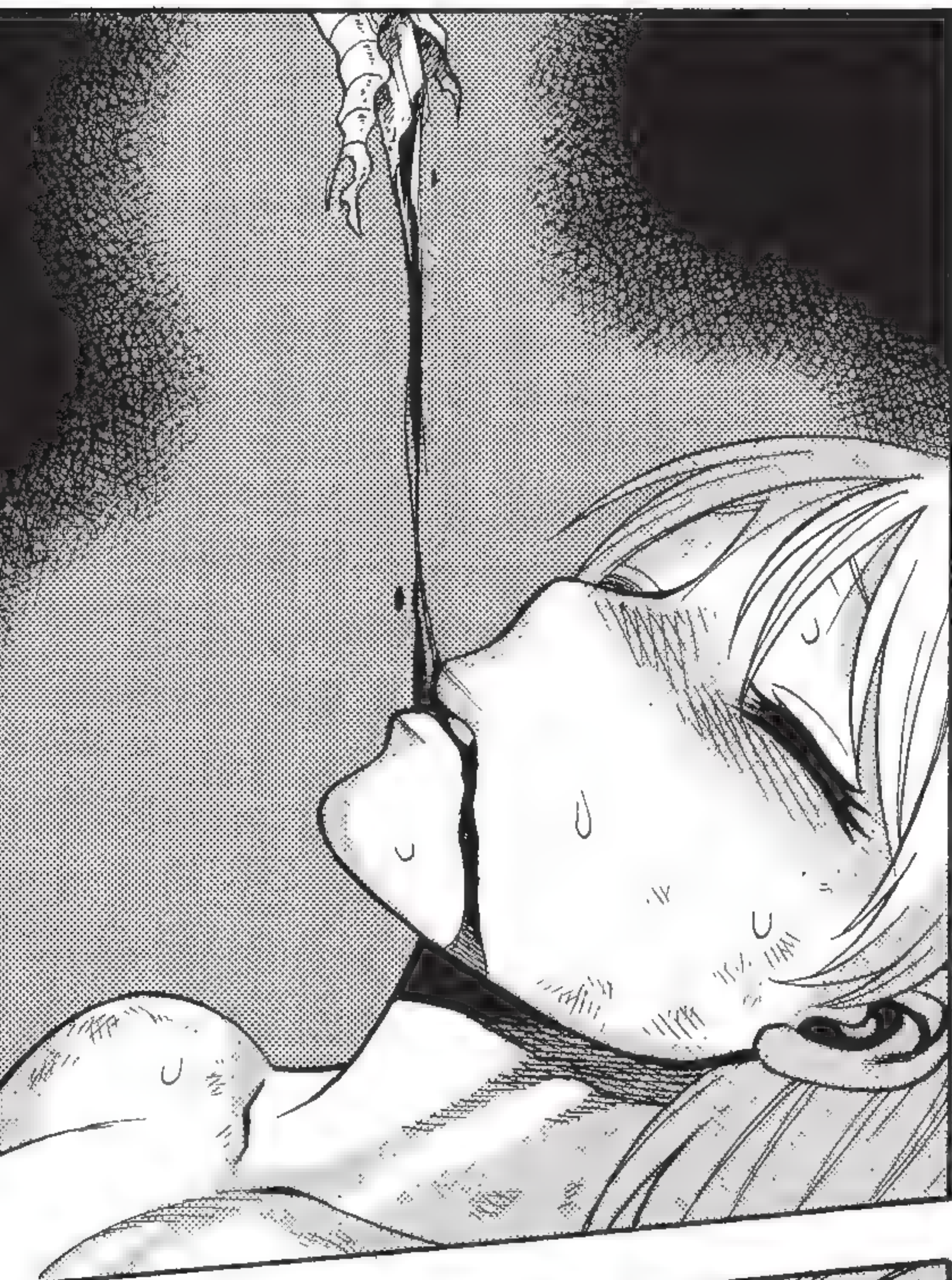
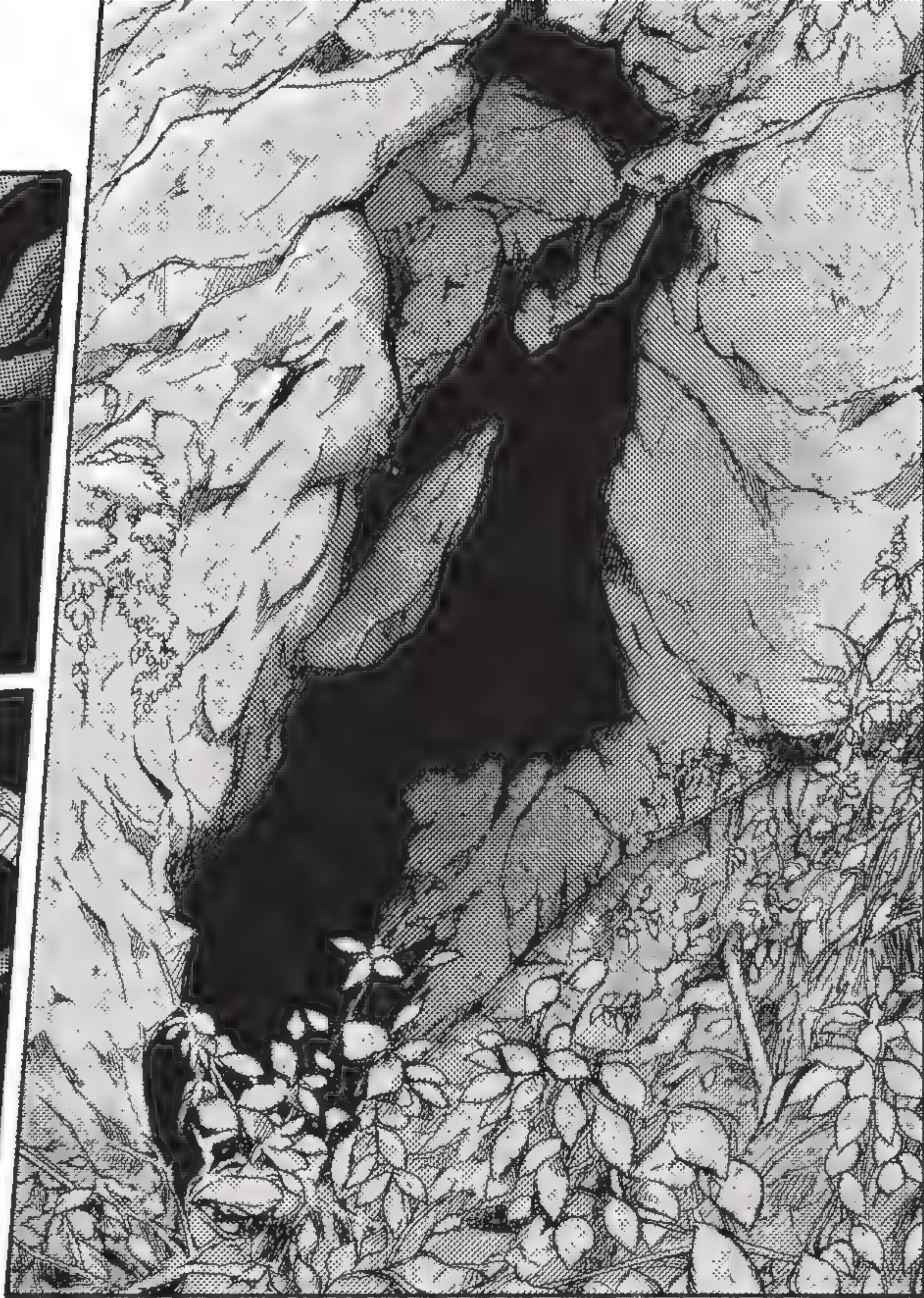
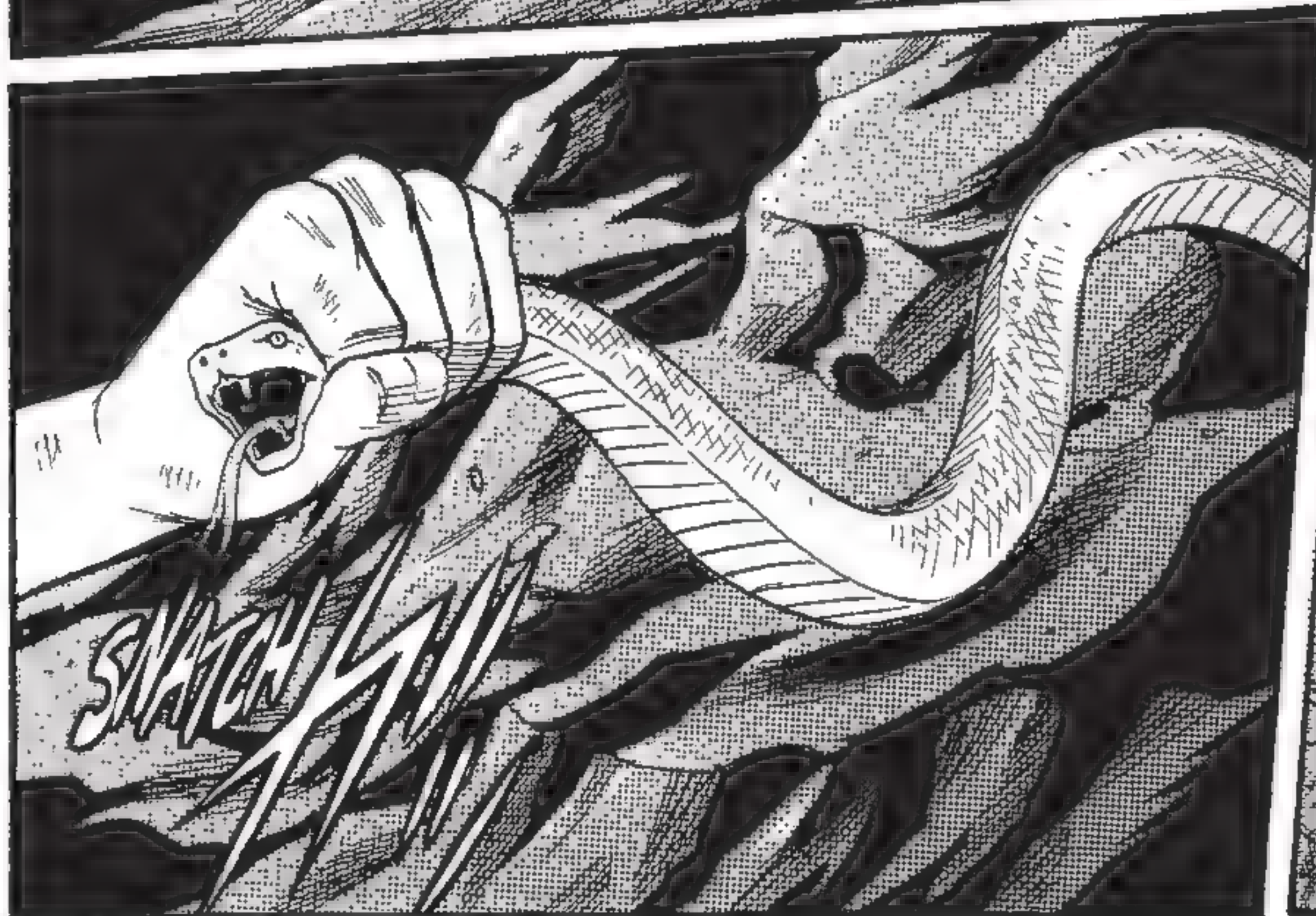
THEY'LL
GIVE US THE
OPENING.
WE NEED TO
ESCAPE.
WE JUST
NEED TO BE
PATIENT, A
LITTLE LONGER.

JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER.

HANG
IN
THERE,
HIME-
SAN...









DON'T
DIE
ON ME,
'KAY?

I MEAN,
WE
JUST
FOUND
EACH
OTHER
AGAIN.

NOT
NEARLY
ENOUGH.

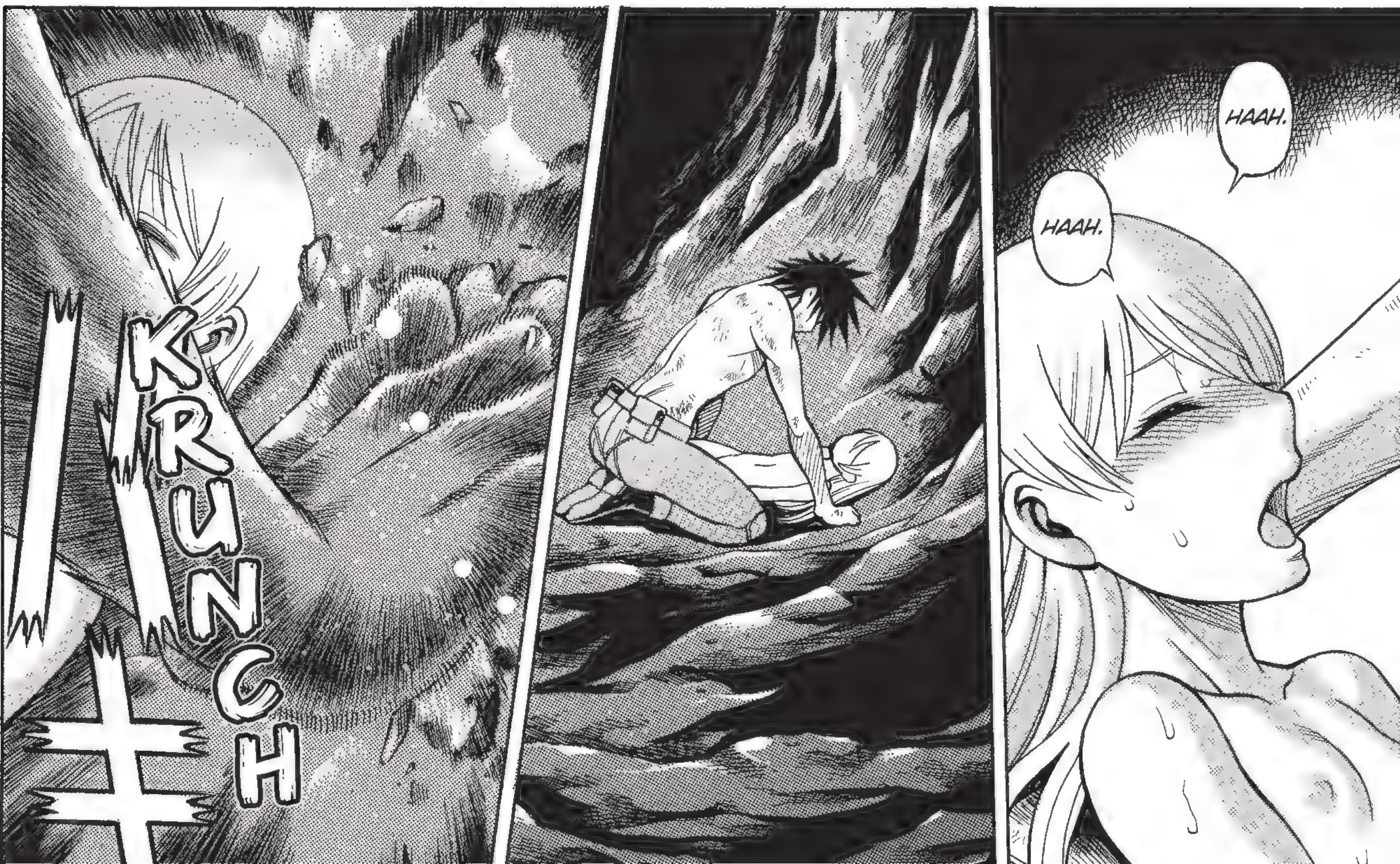
C'MON,
HIME-
SAN.
HANG
IN
THERE.

IT'S
NOT
ENOUGH
...



I
HAVEN'T
TOLD
YOU
YET.

AND
I...

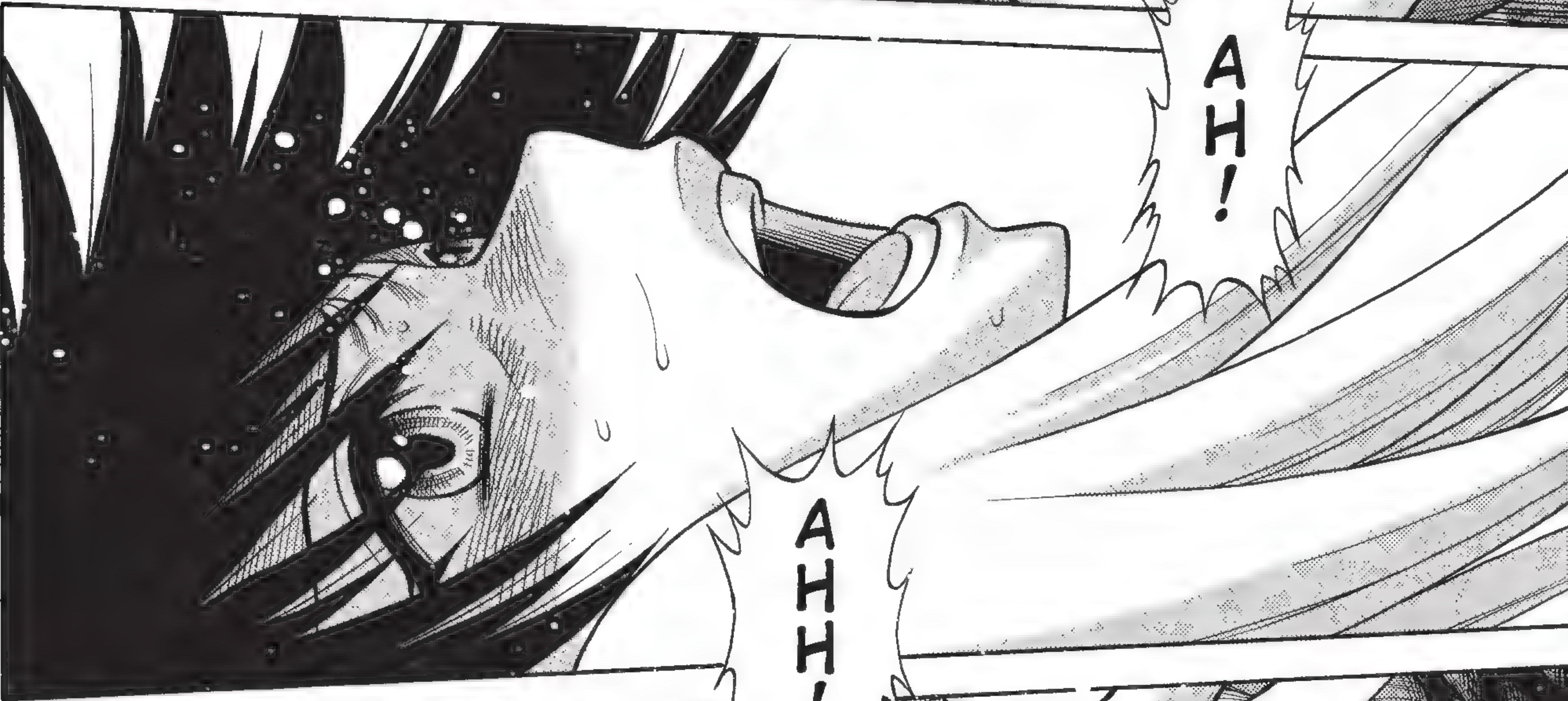
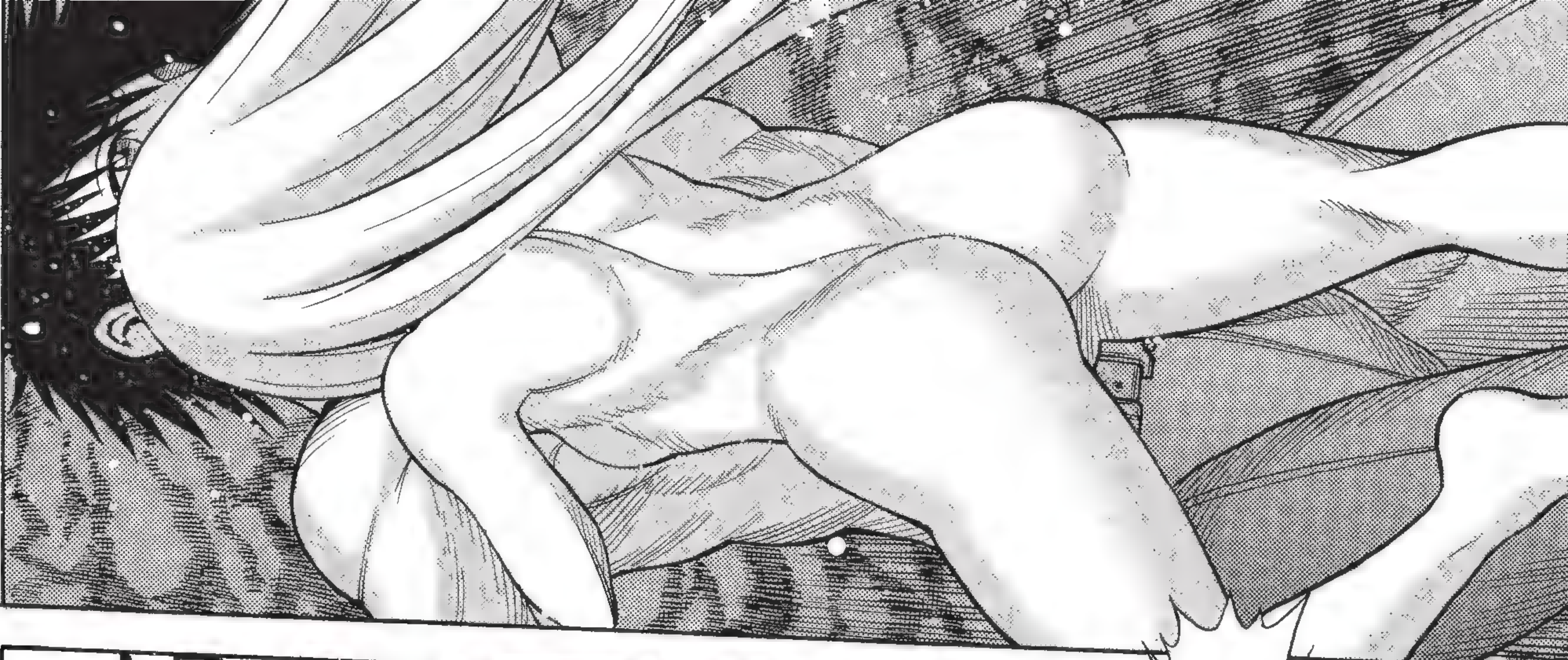


KRUNCH

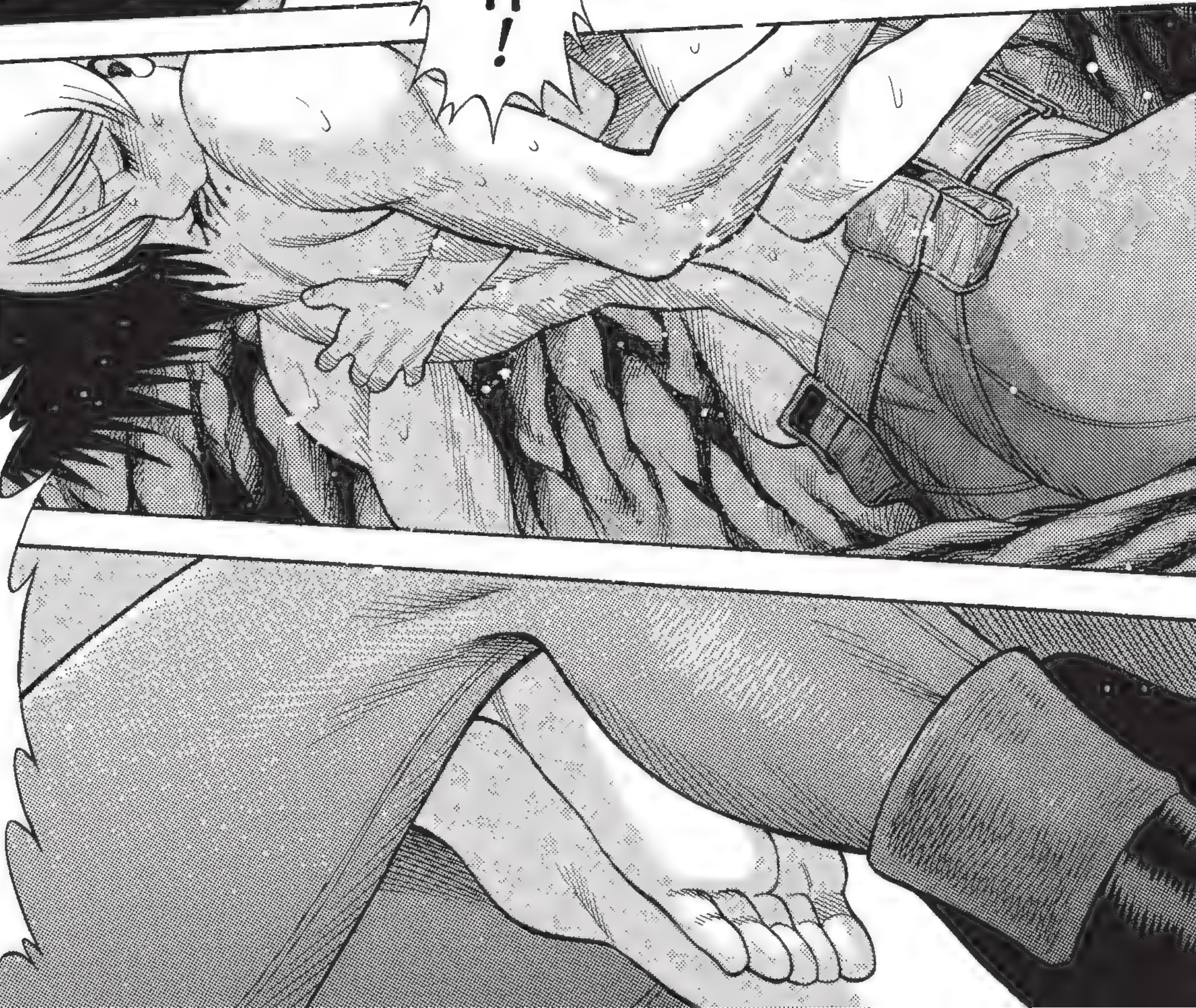
HAAH.

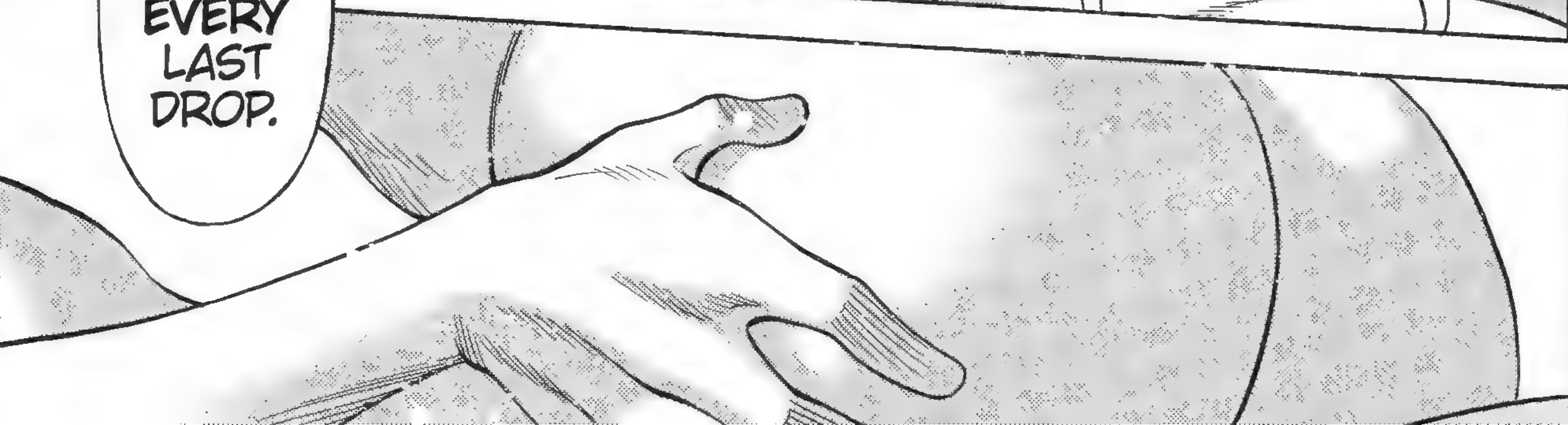
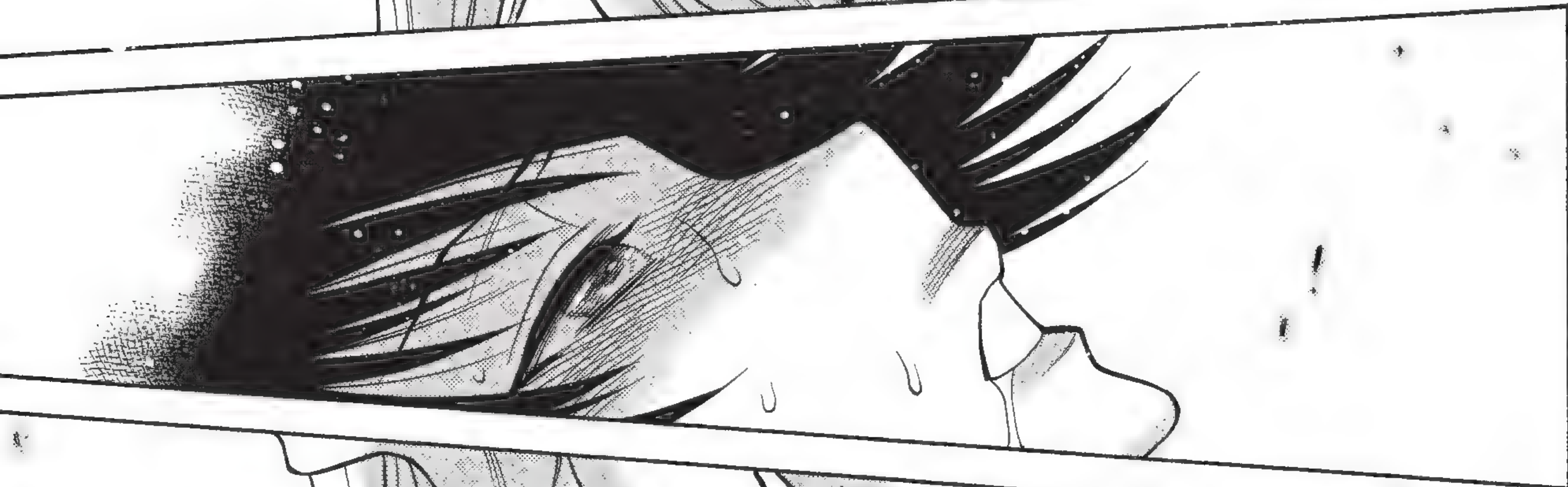
HAAH.



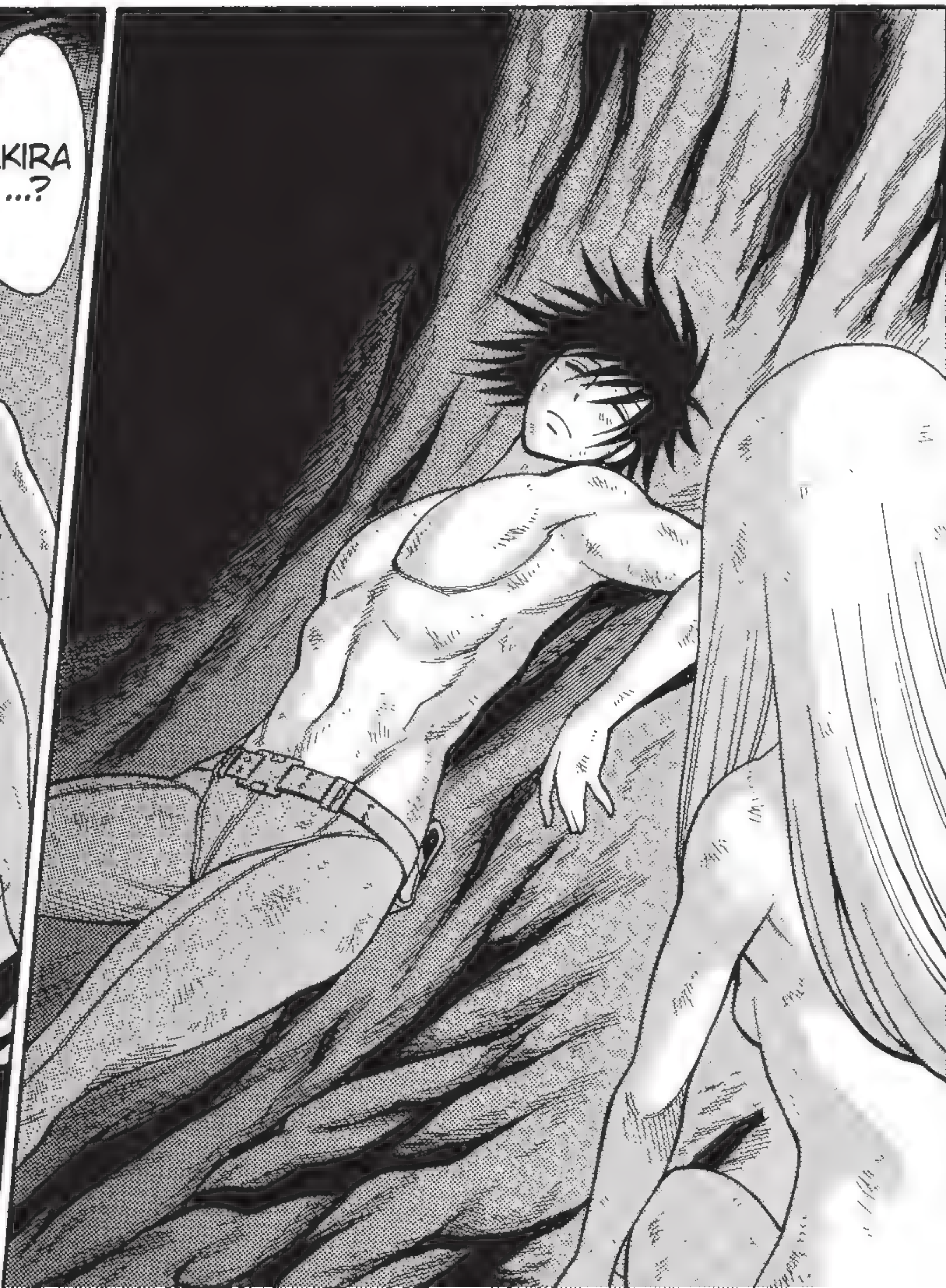
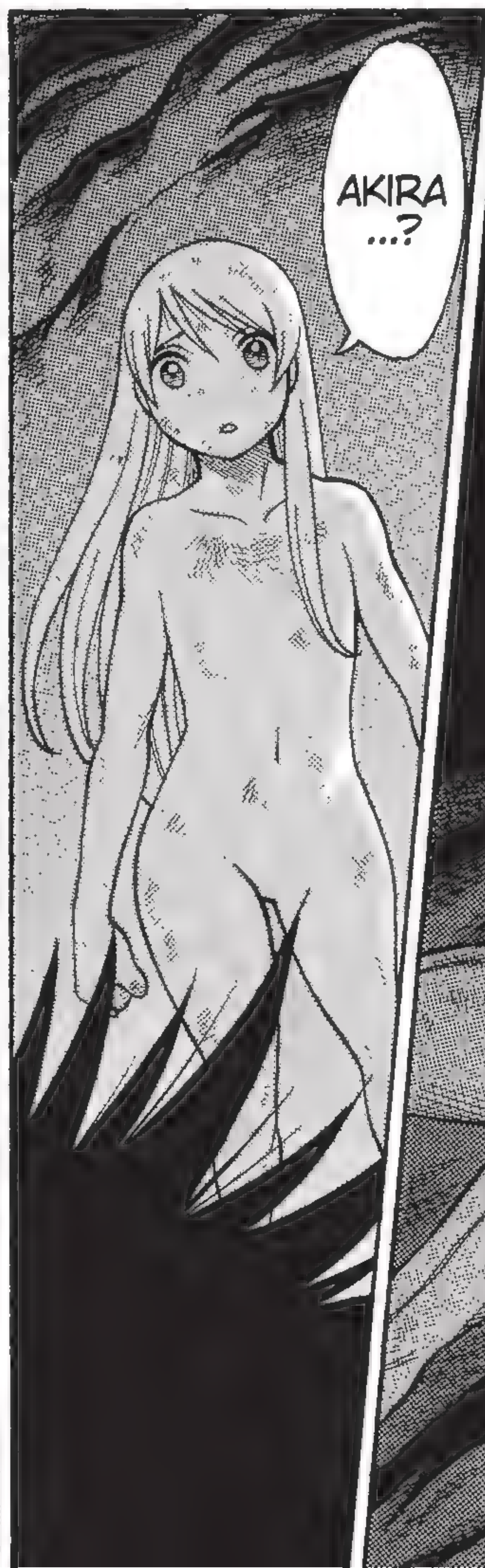
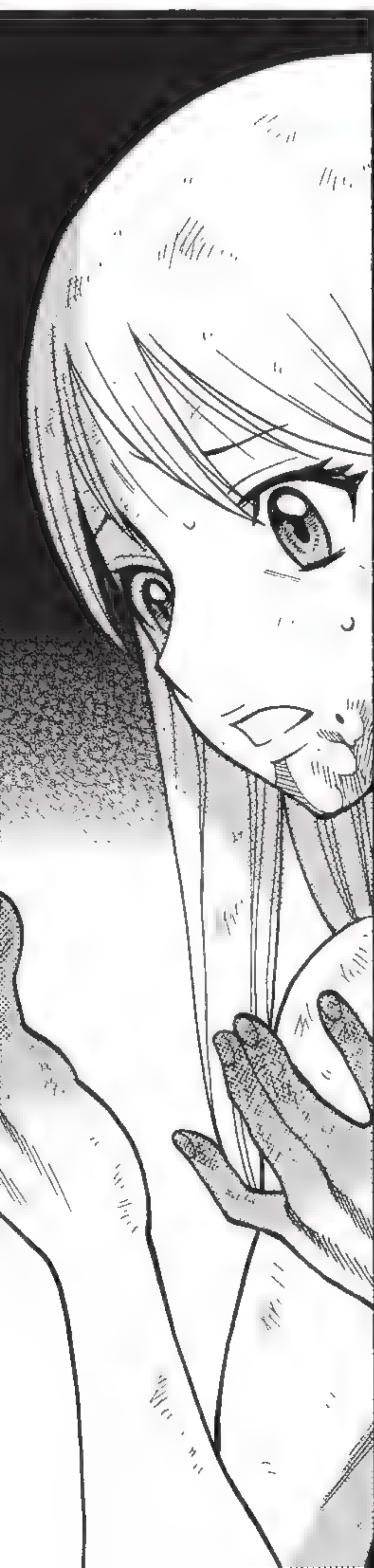


AAHHN!!









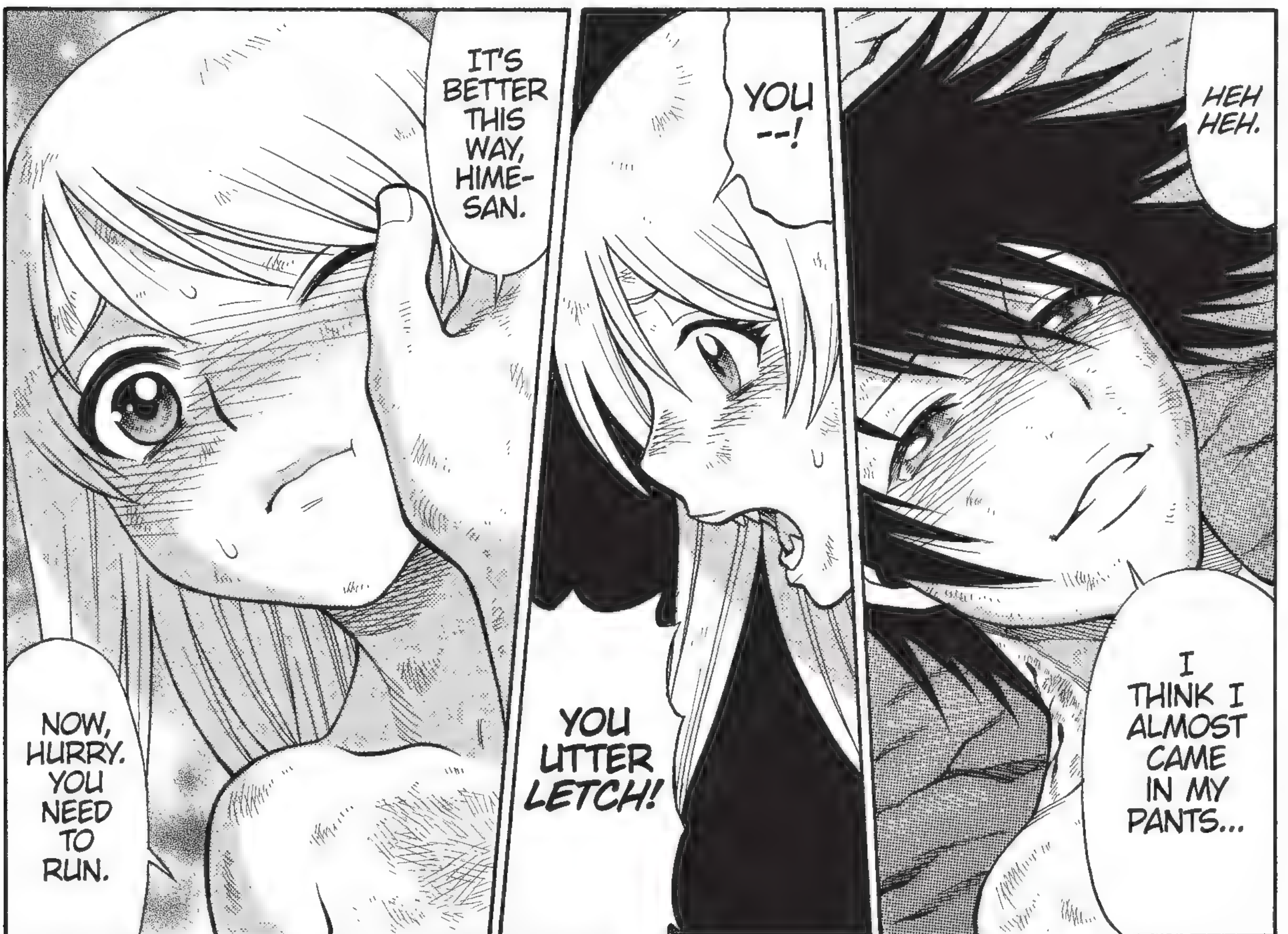


OH NO...

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ?!

AKIRA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ?

NO ...!



IT'S BETTER THIS WAY, HIME-SAN.

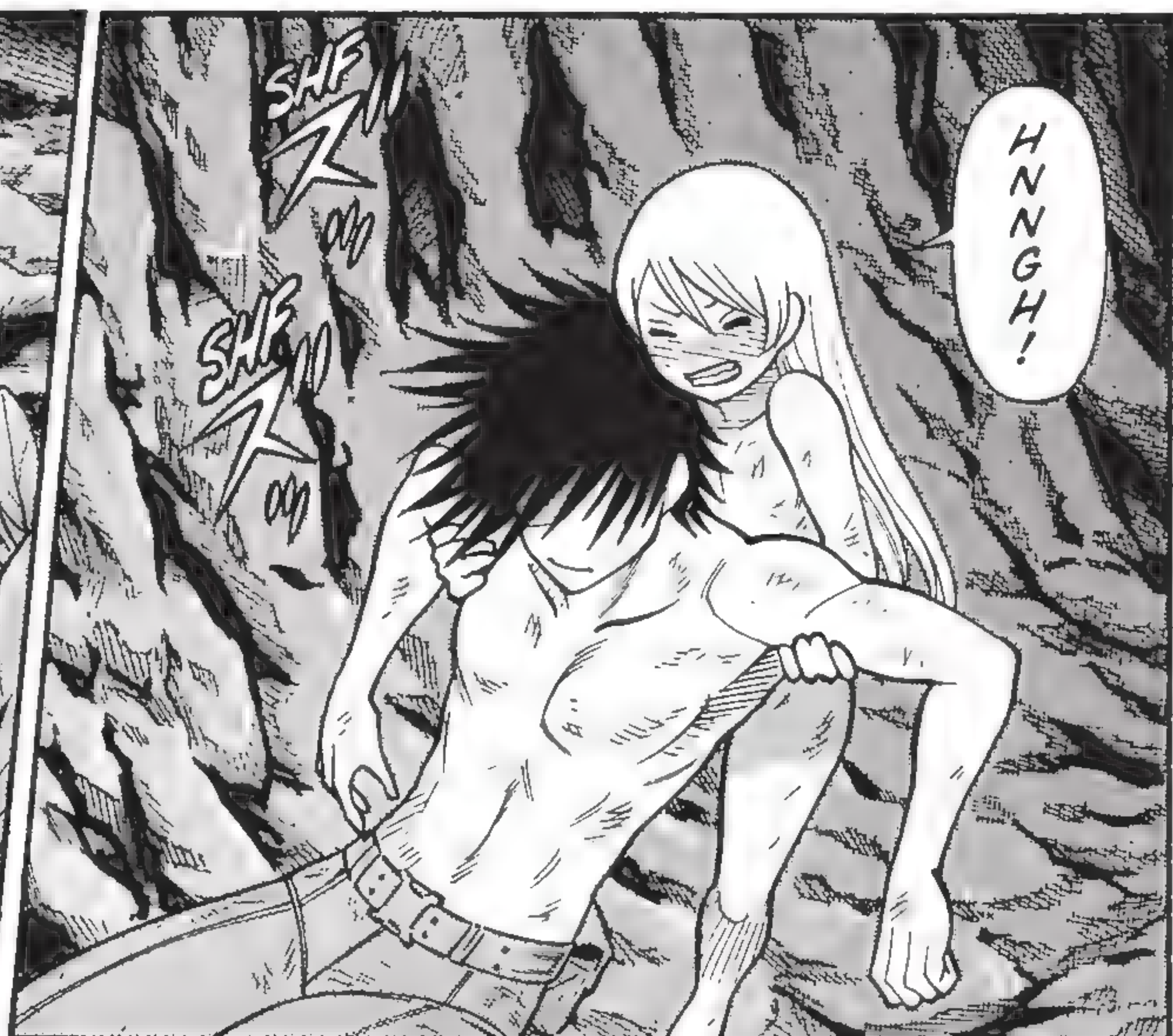
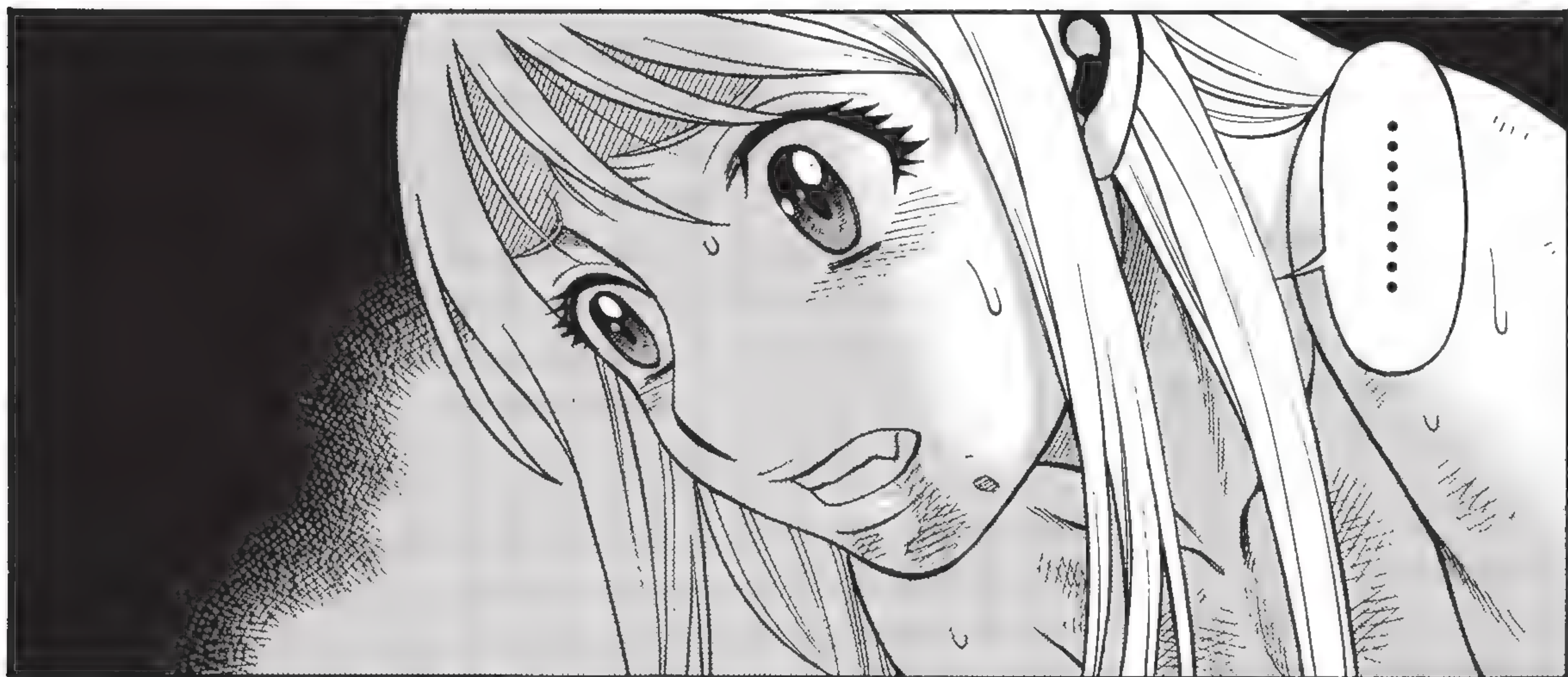
YOU --!

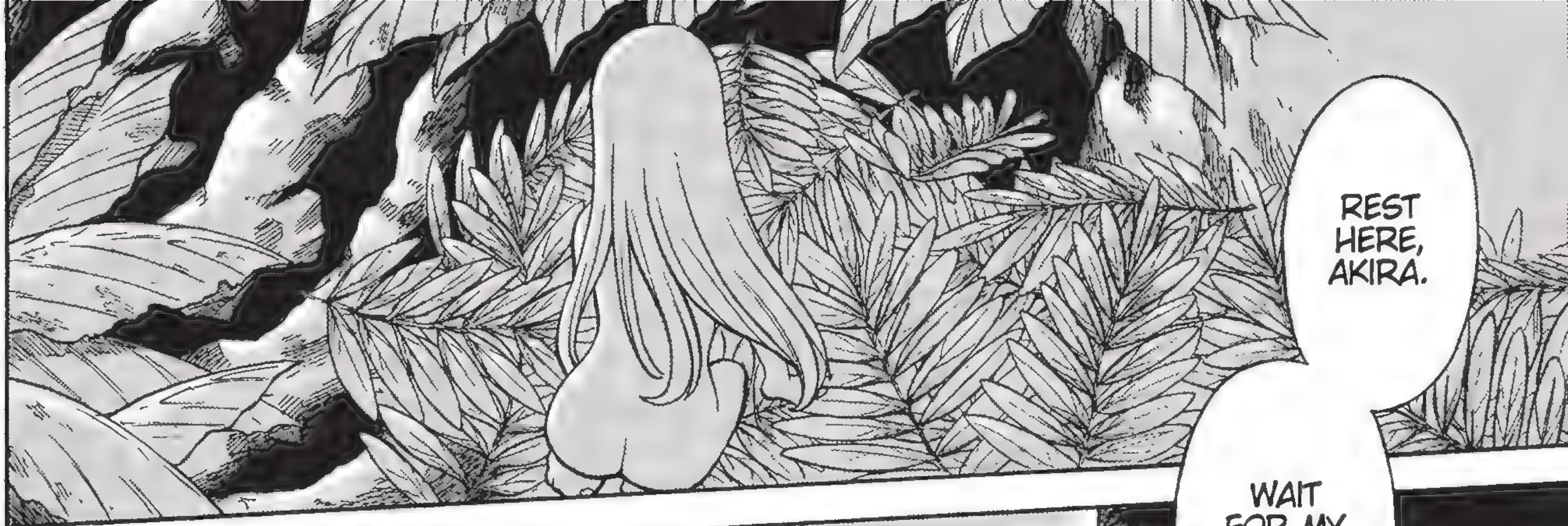
HEH HEH.

NOW, HURRY. YOU NEED TO RUN.

YOU LITTER LETCH!

I THINK I ALMOST CAME IN MY PANTS...





REST
HERE,
AKIRA.

WAIT
FOR MY
RETURN.




DON'T
WORRY.
I WON'T
BE
LONG.



I CAN
FIND THE
VACCINE
THERE!!

ROZEN-
MANN'S
CASTLE
IS
NEARBY...



IT WILL
TAKE
48 HOURS
FOR THE
VAMPIRISM
VIRUS TO
TRIGGER
APOPTOSIS
IN A
WEREWOLF...

I MUST
FIND IT
BEFORE
THEN,
WHAT-
EVER
THE
COST!!

FWAP

WAIT
FOR
ME,
AKIRA!

I
WILL
NOT
LET
YOU
DIE!!

FWOOOSH

MANY AN
OCCULT
FAN HAS
PONDERED
THIS
QUESTION
AT LEAST
ONCE.



WHAT
WOULD
HAPPEN IF
A VAMPIRE
DRANK
THE BLOOD
OF A
WEREWOLF?

AS WITH
HUMANS,
THE
VAMPIRISM
VIRUS WILL
ATTEMPT TO
REWRITE THE
INFECTED
WEREWOLF'S
DNA.

A WEREWOLF'S
PEERLESS
FIGHTING
ABILITY,
COMBINED
WITH A
VAMPIRE'S
LINDYING
YOUTH.
WOULD NOT
THE RESULT
BE THE MOST
POWERFUL
CREATURE IN
THE WORLD?

EVERY NOW
AND AGAIN,
ANCIENT TEXTS
WILL MAKE
PASSING MENTION
OF WEREWOLVES
TURNED INTO
VAMPIRES, AND OF
THE HAVOC THAT
SUCH CREATURES
WREAKED UPON
BOTH VAMPIRE
AND WEREWOLF
SOCIETIES.

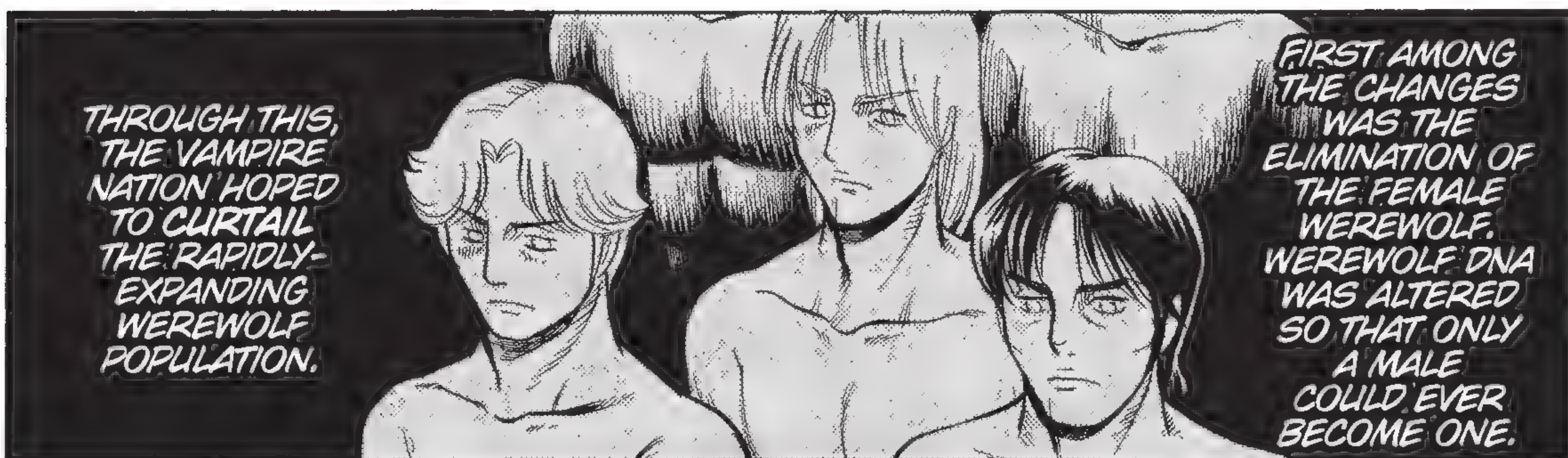
HOWEVER,
IN WEREWOLVES,
THAT TRANSFOR-
MATION WILL
TRIGGER THE
DEATH OF THE
REWRITTEN
CELL, LEADING
TO APOPTOSIS.
IT TAKES
72 HOURS FOR
AN INFECTED
HUMAN TO FULLY
CHANGE INTO A
VAMPIRE, BUT
AN INFECTED
WEREWOLF WILL
WEAKEN AND
DIE IN ONLY
48 HOURS.

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
THE
ANSWER
TO THAT
IS "NO."



THE WEREWOLVES
CONSENTED TO
BECOME THE
VAMPIRES' LOYAL
SERVANTS. TO
PROVE THEIR
LOYALTY, THE
VAMPIRES'
ROYAL HOUSE
COMMANDED THAT
THE WEREWOLVES
BE MODIFIED.

IT IS SAID
THAT THIS
CHANGE
CAME ABOUT
WHEN THE
WAR
BETWEEN
VAMPIRES
AND WERE-
WOLVES
CEASED.



THROUGH THIS,
THE VAMPIRE
NATION HOPED
TO CURTAIL
THE RAPIDLY-
EXPANDING
WEREWOLF
POPULATION.

FIRST AMONG
THE CHANGES
WAS THE
ELIMINATION OF
THE FEMALE
WEREWOLF.
WEREWOLF DNA
WAS ALTERED
SO THAT ONLY
A MALE
COULD EVER
BECOME ONE.



FROM THIS,
IT IS READILY
OBVIOUS
TO SEE HOW
THE PURE
VAMPIRES
GREATLY
FEARED
THE HYBRID
WEREWOLF-
VAMPIRES.

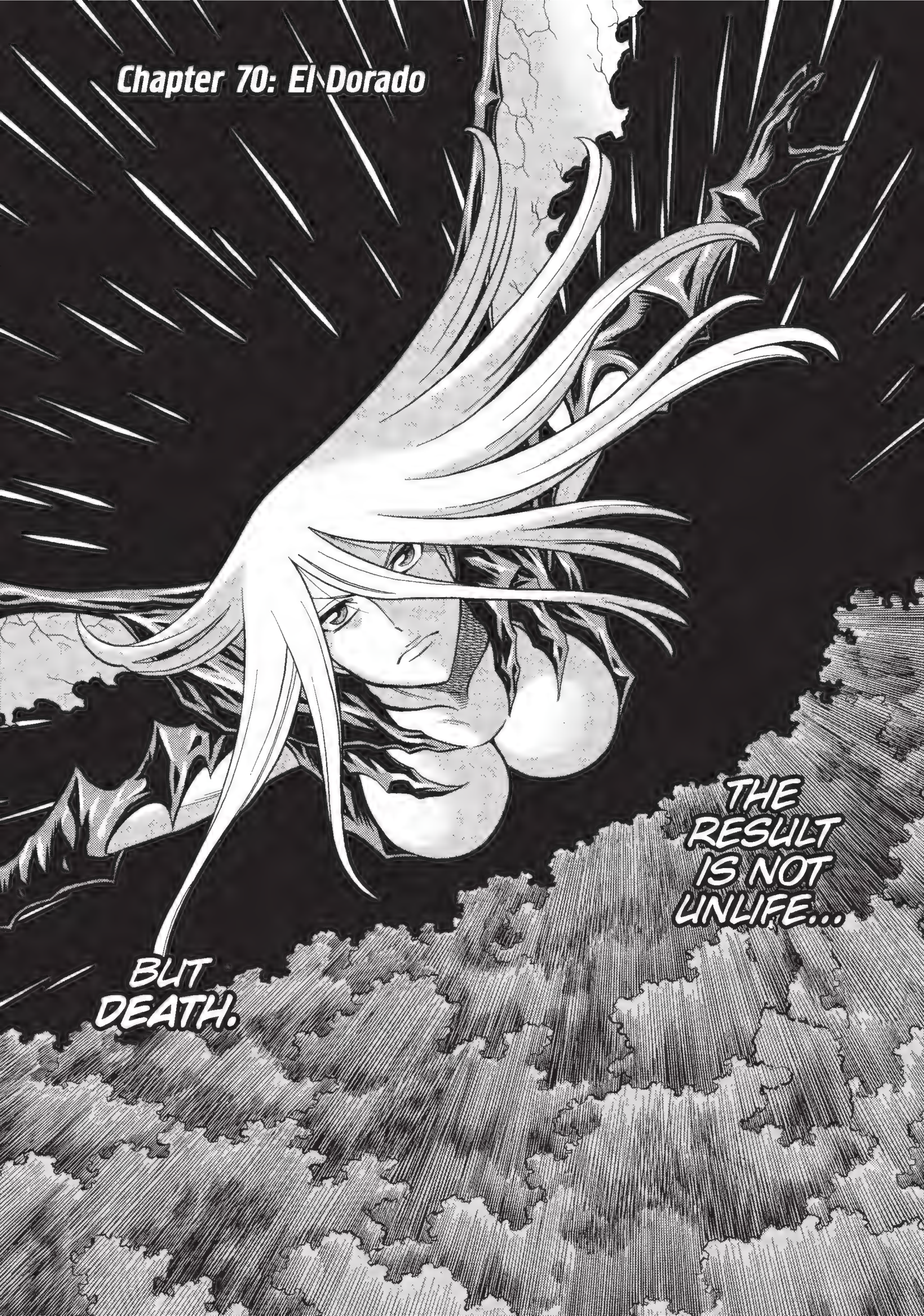
THE SECOND
WAS THE
INTRODUC-
TION OF
APOPTOSIS,
ENSURING
THAT ANY
WEREWOLF
INFECTED
WITH THE
VAMPIRISM
VIRUS
WOULD
DIE.

IT'S JUST
THAT IN THE
WEREWOLF'S
CASE...

ONCE INFECTED,
A WEREWOLF
HAS EXACTLY THE
SAME AMOUNT
OF TIME AS A
NORMAL HUMAN
DOES BEFORE
REACHING THE
POINT OF NO
RETURN.

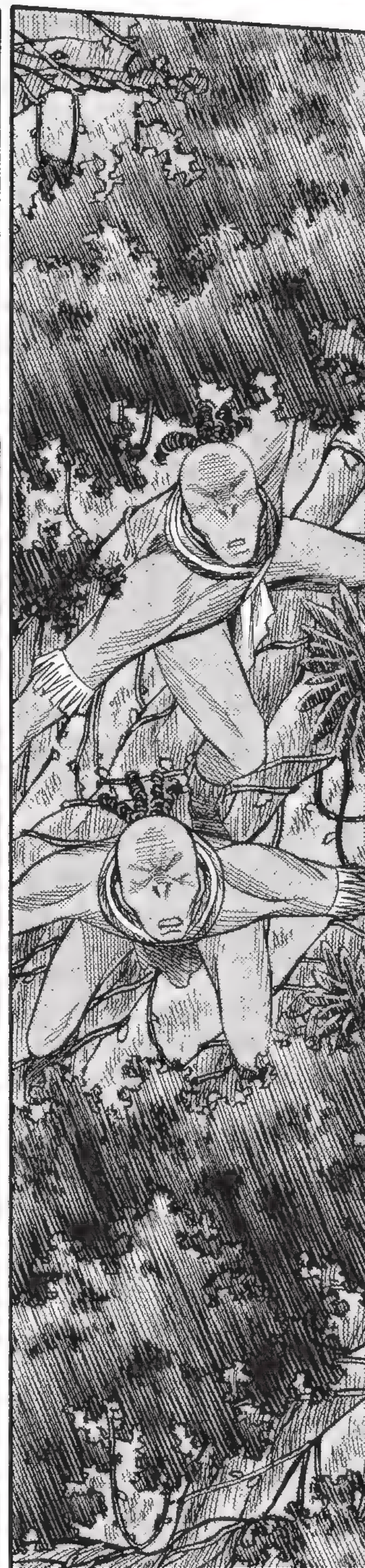
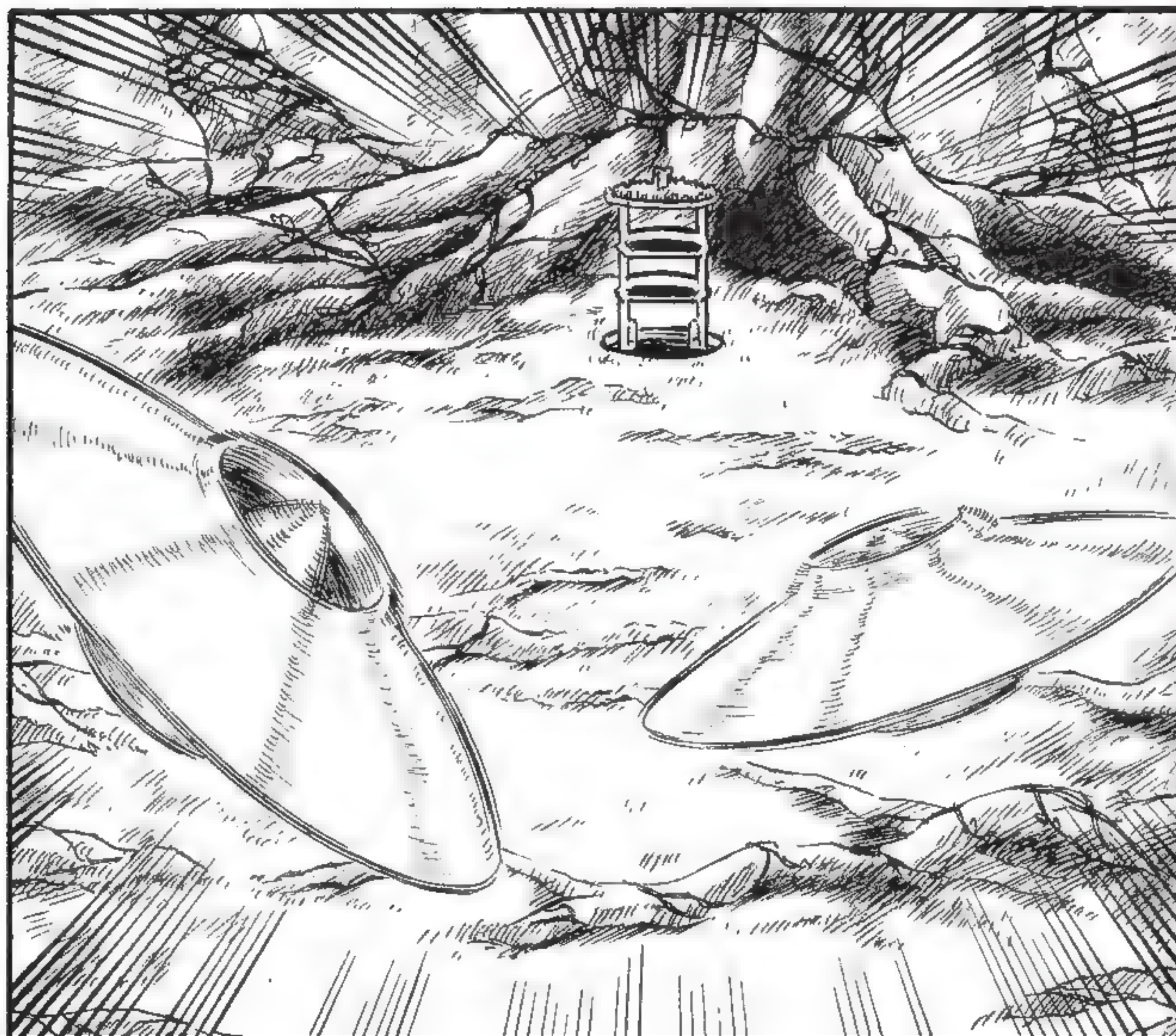
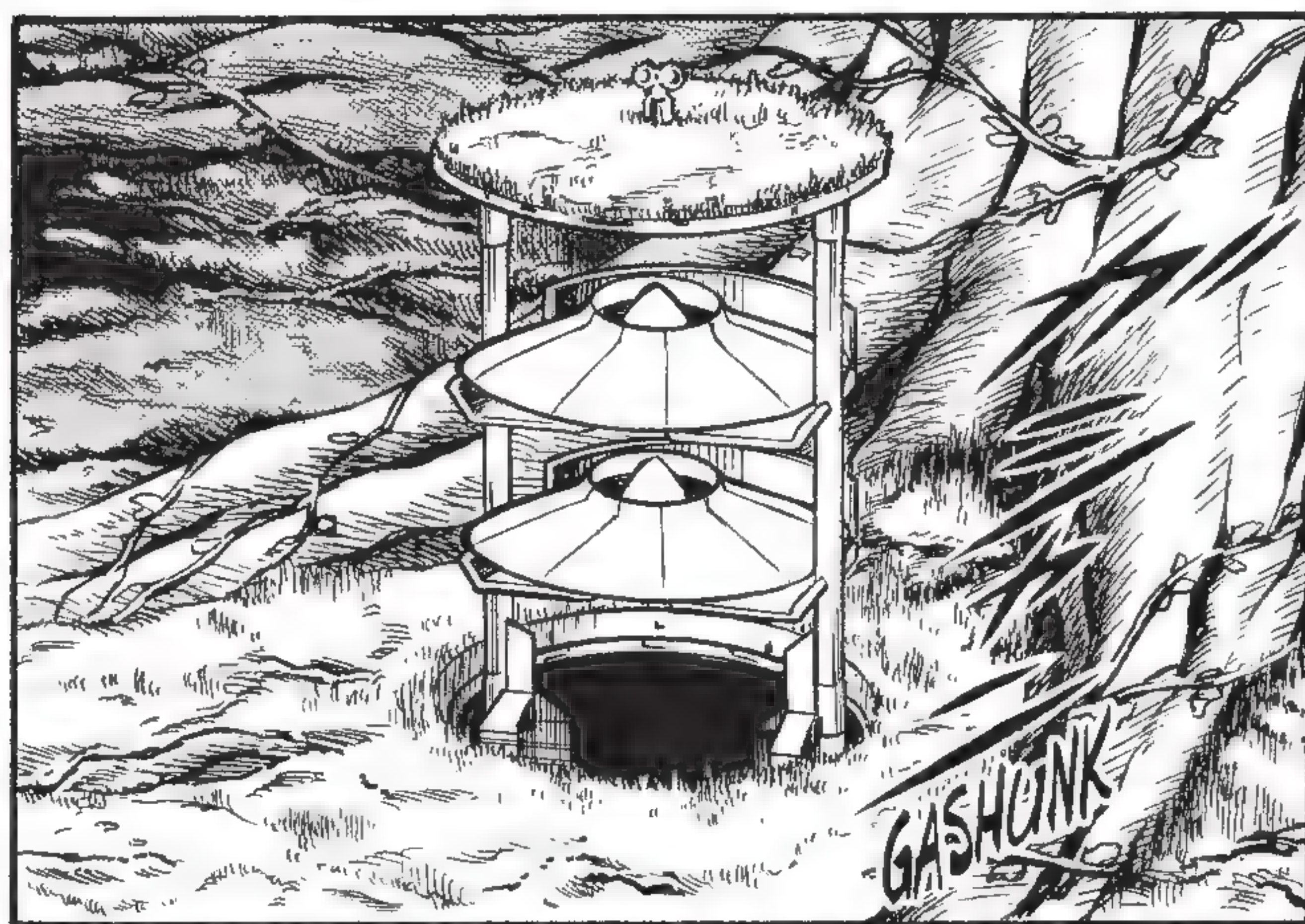
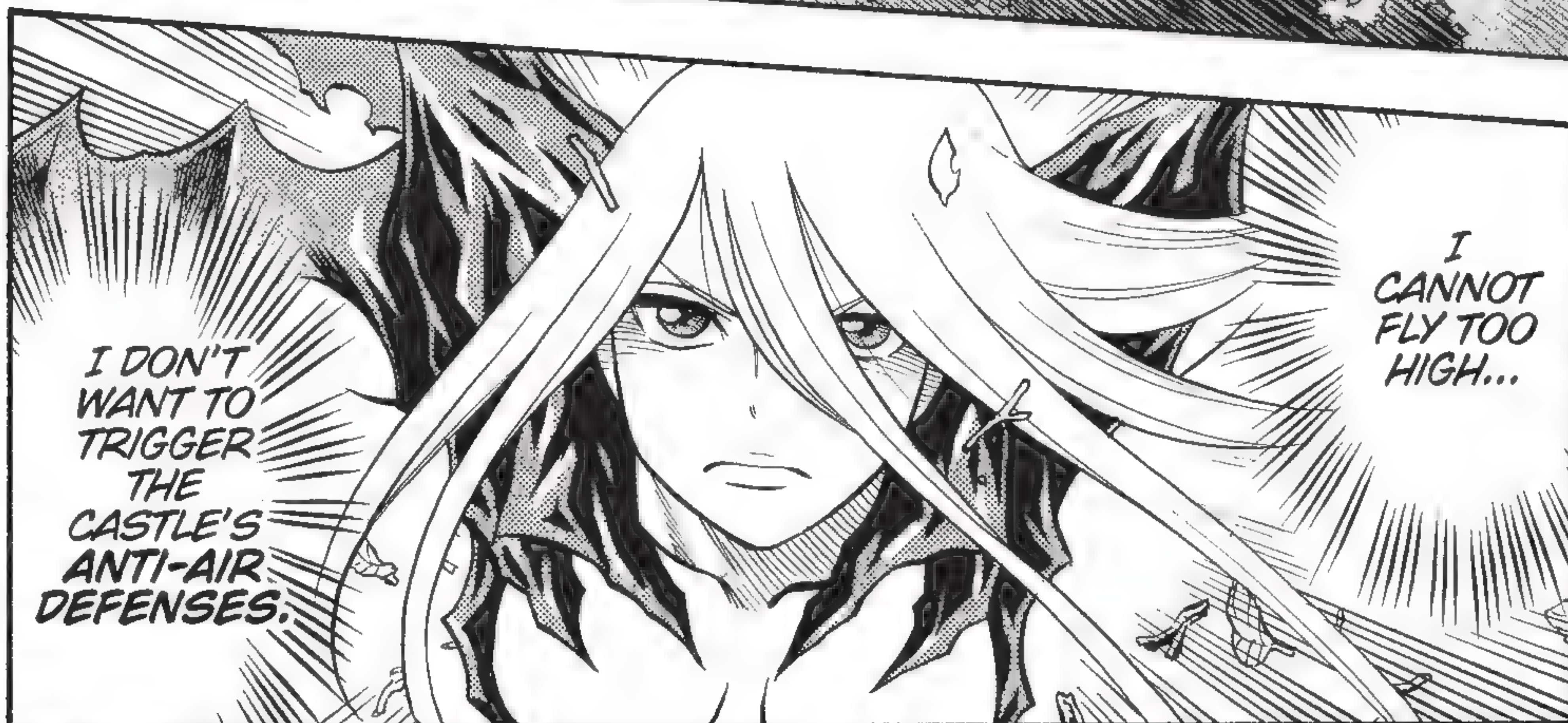
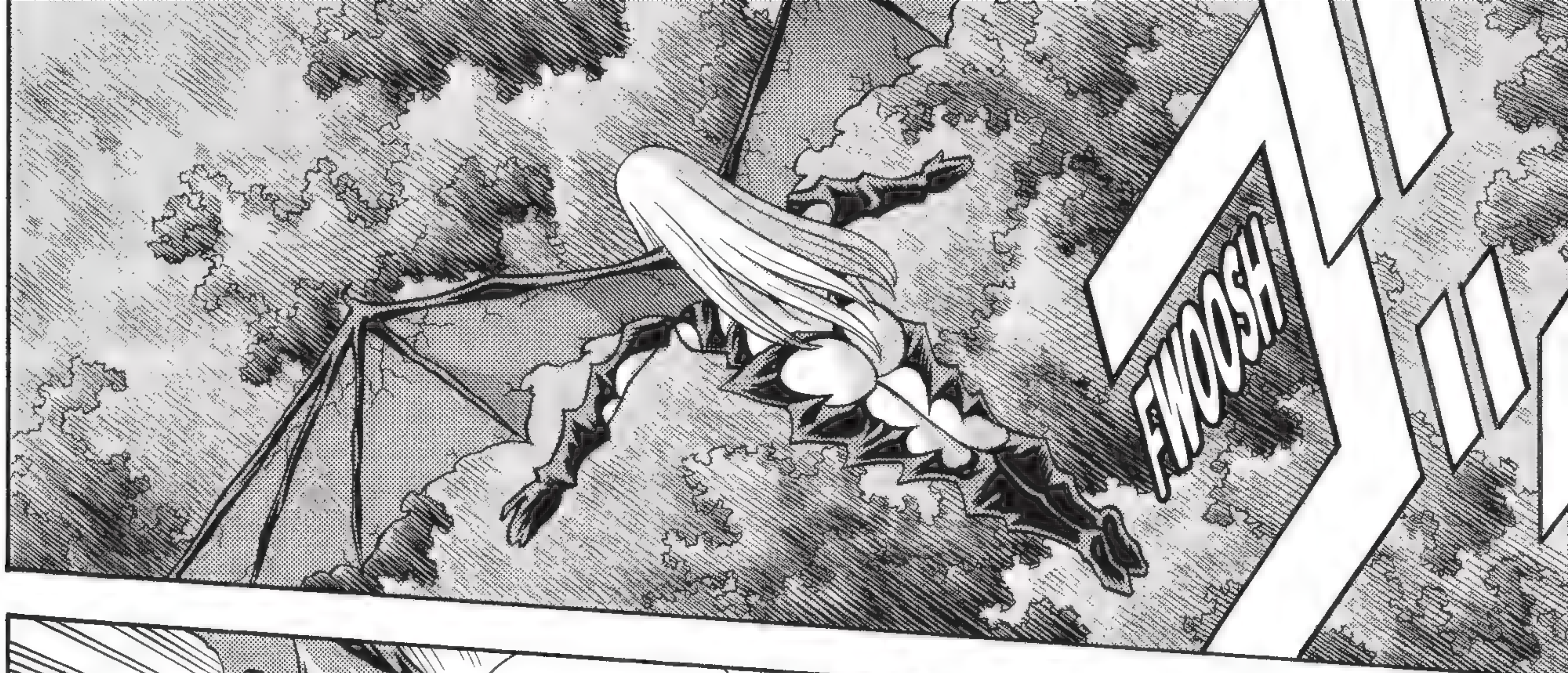
48 HOURS:

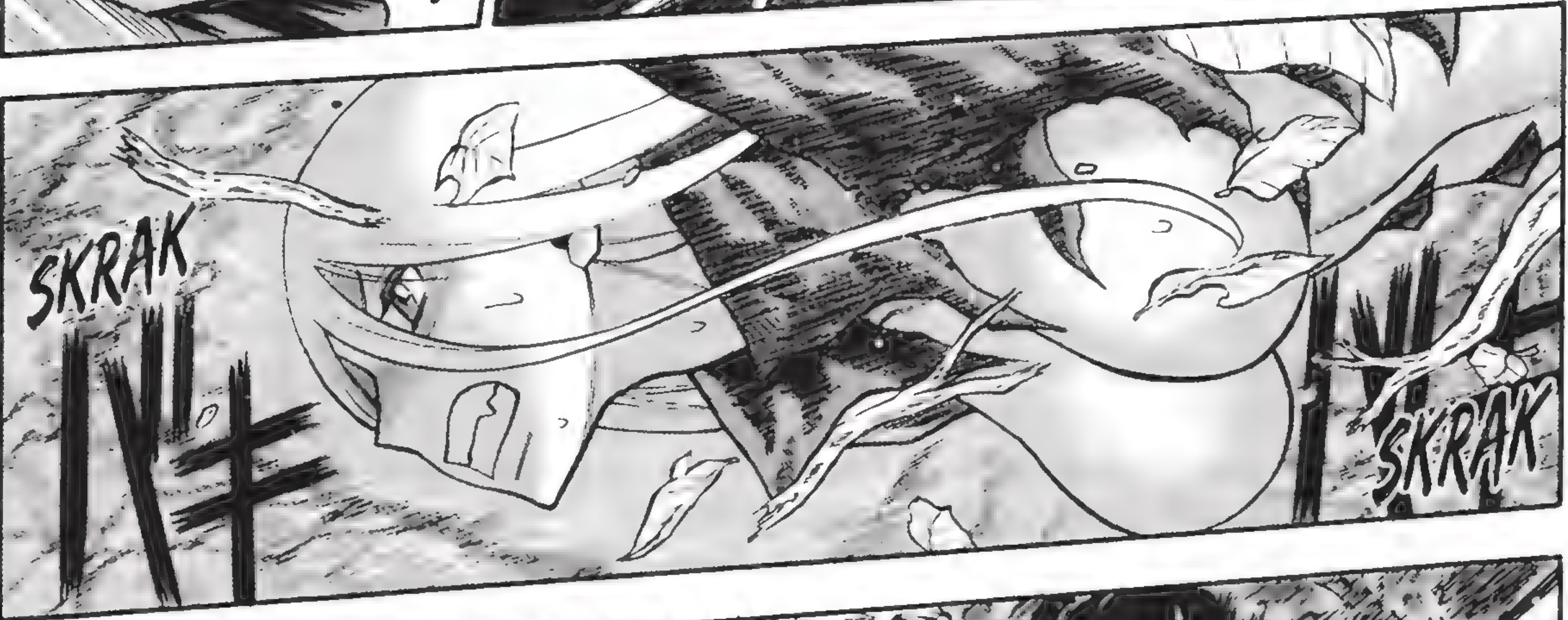
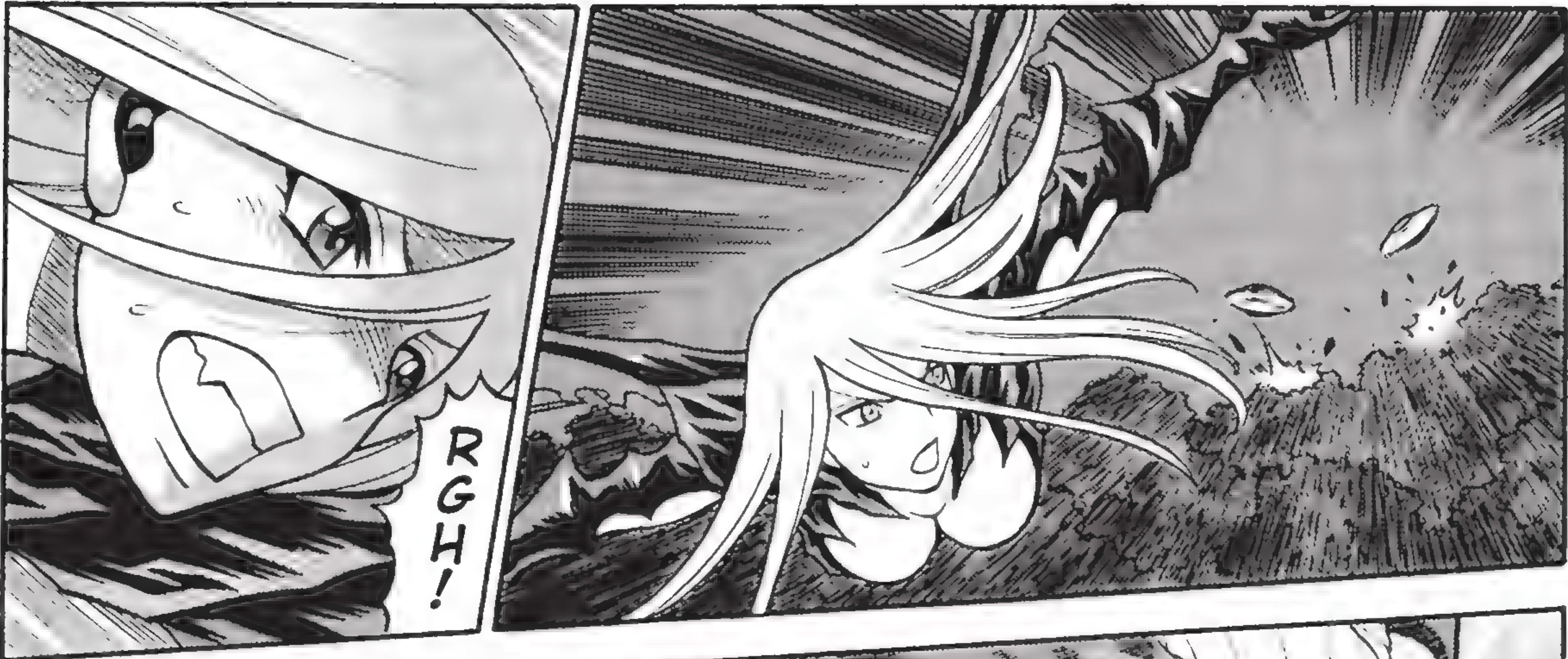
Chapter 70: El Dorado

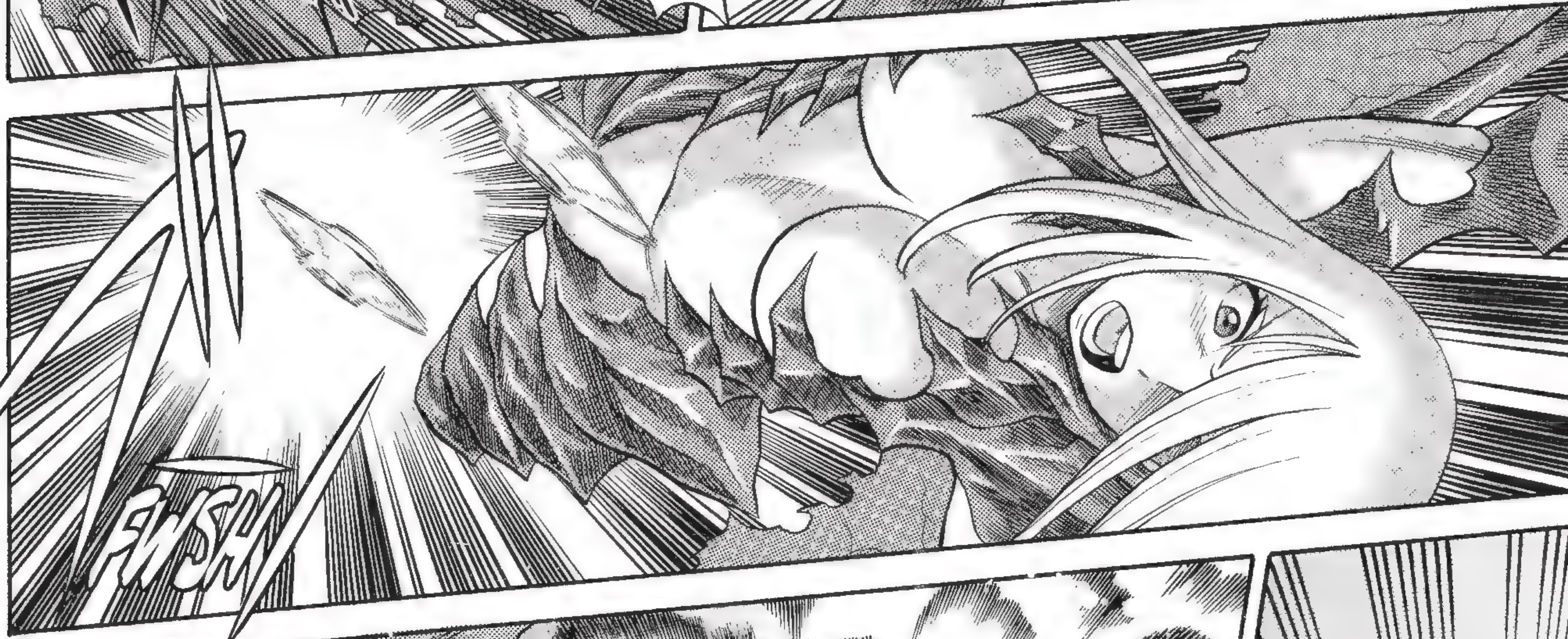


**BUT
DEATH.**

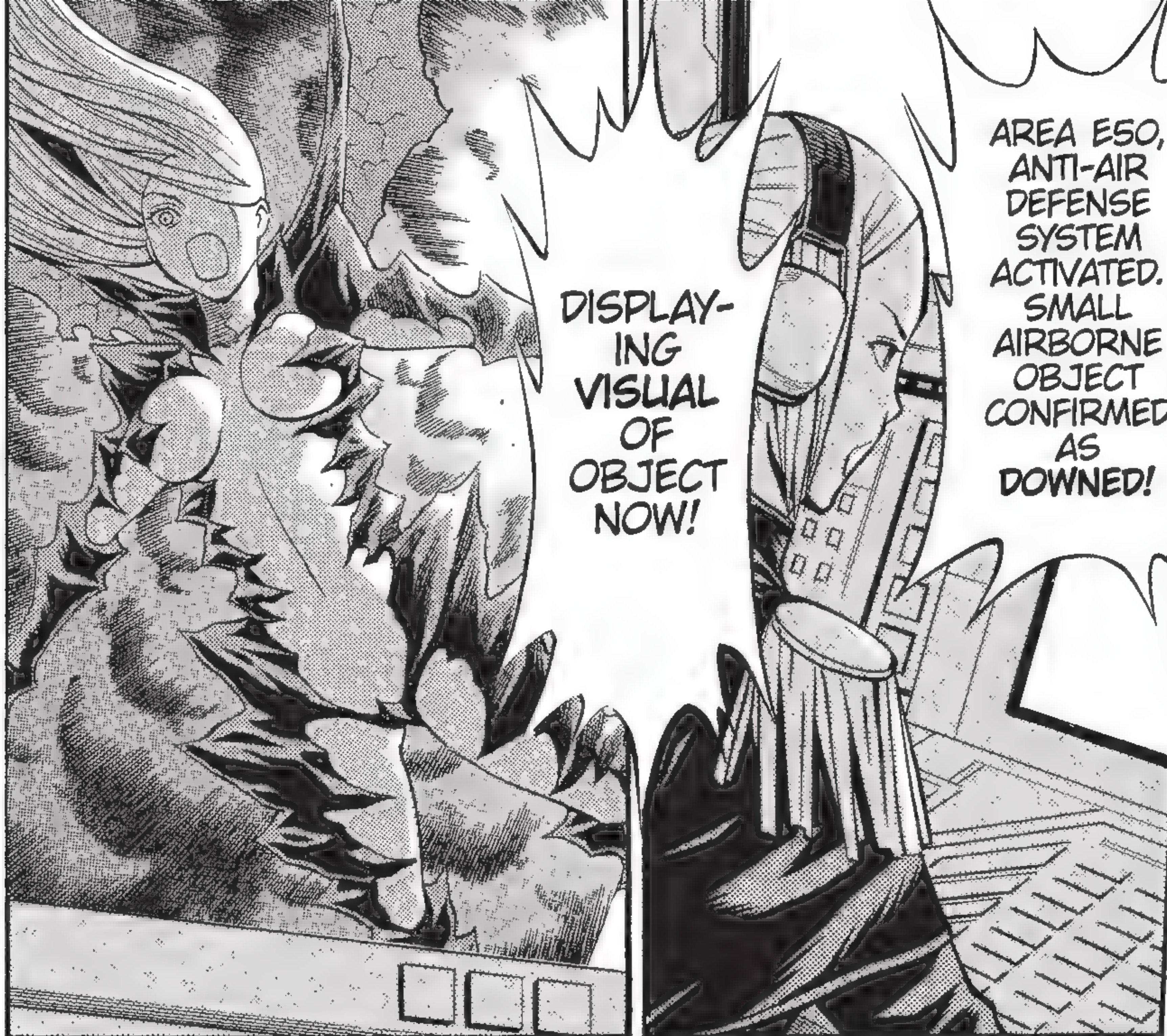
**THE
RESULT
IS NOT
UNLIFE...**





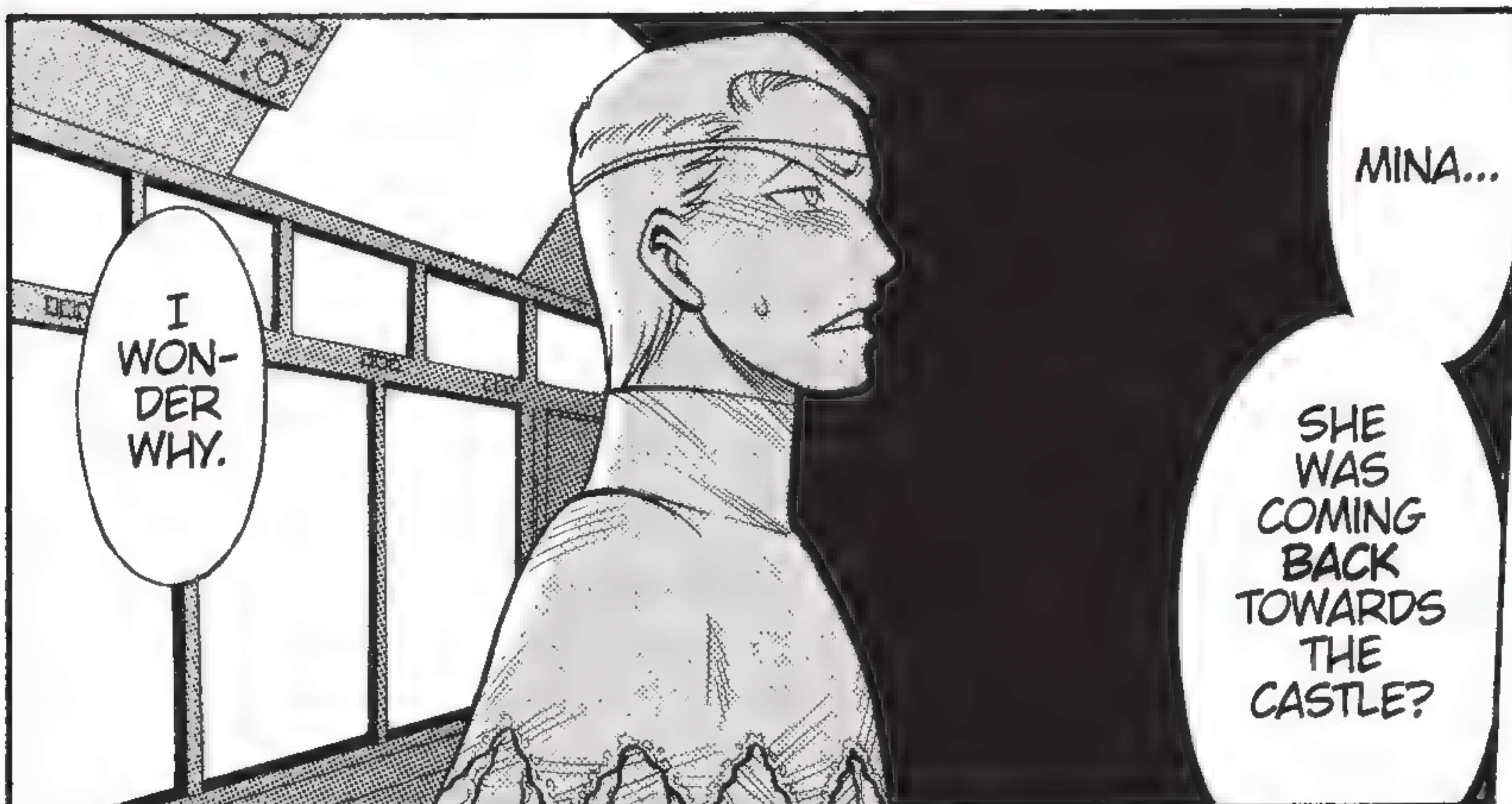






DISPLAY-
ING
VISUAL
OF
OBJECT
NOW!

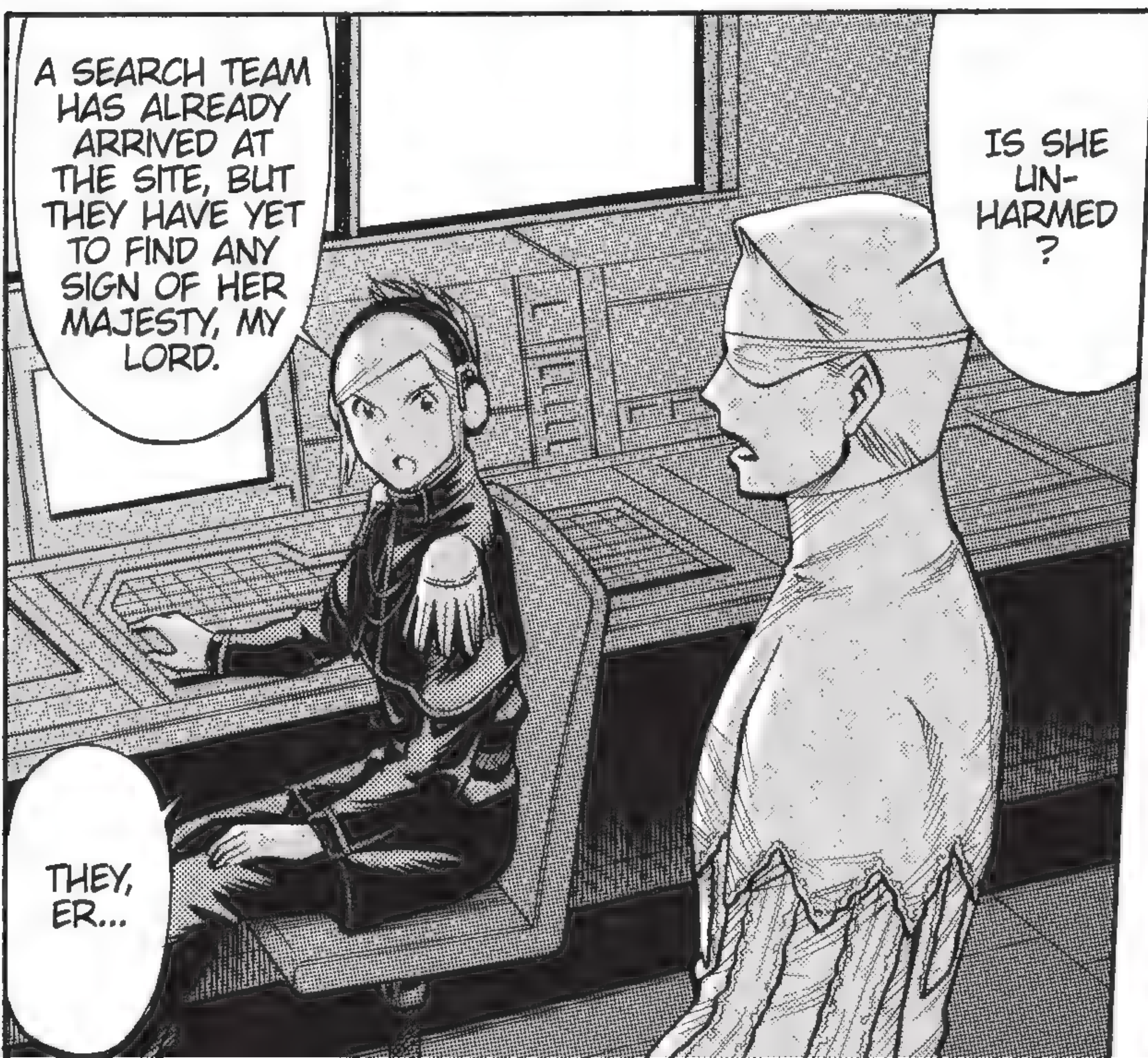
AREA E50,
ANTI-AIR
DEFENSE
SYSTEM
ACTIVATED.
SMALL
AIRBORNE
OBJECT
CONFIRMED
AS
DOWNED!



I
WON-
DER
WHY.

MINA...

SHE
WAS
COMING
BACK
TOWARDS
THE
CASTLE?



A SEARCH TEAM
HAS ALREADY
ARRIVED AT
THE SITE, BUT
THEY HAVE YET
TO FIND ANY
SIGN OF HER
MAJESTY, MY
LORD.

IS SHE
UN-
HARMED
?

THEY,
ER...





FIND
HER
!!

MINA
MUST
BE
FOUND,
NO
MATTER
WHAT
THE
COST!!

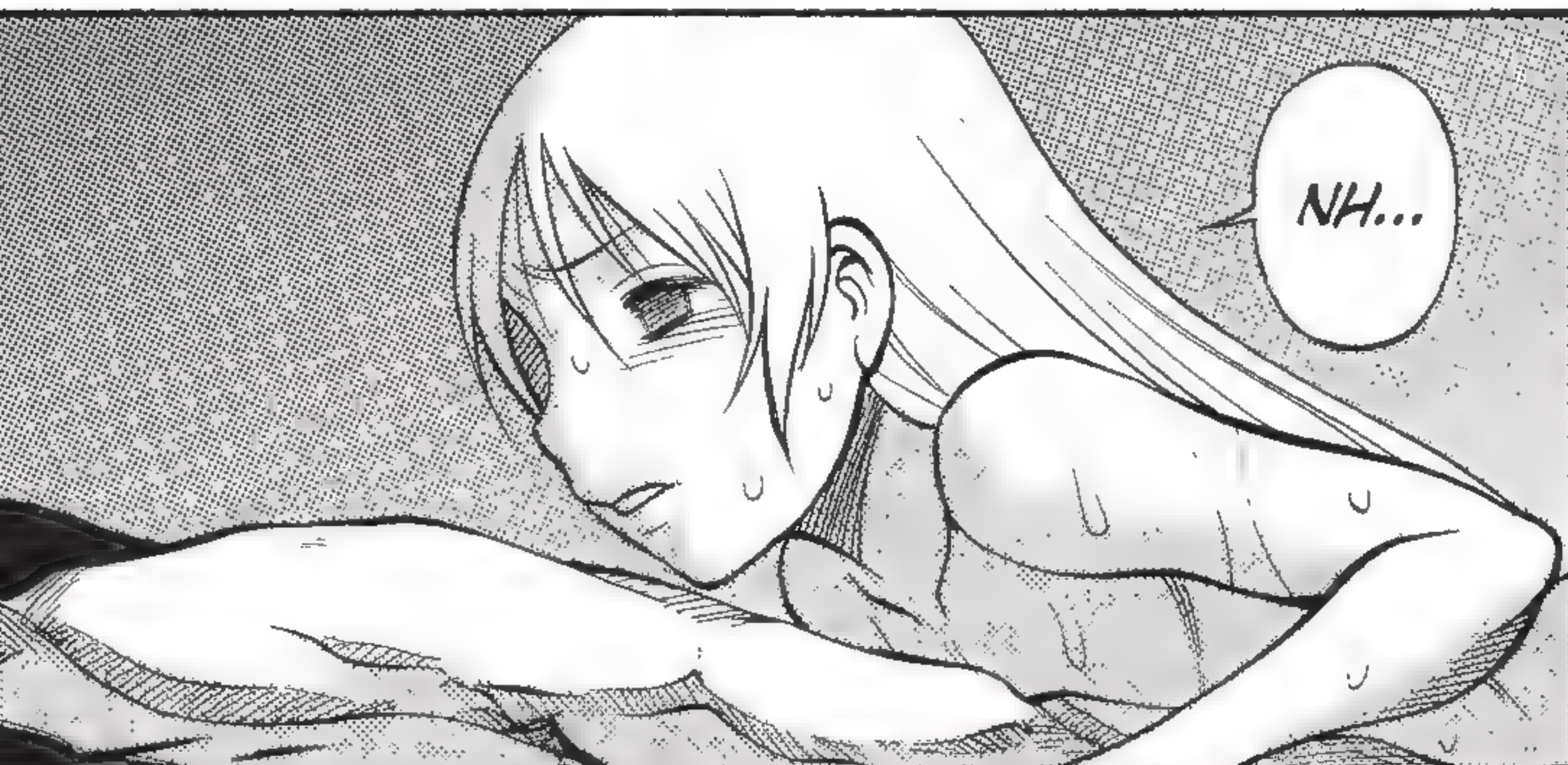


GRIND

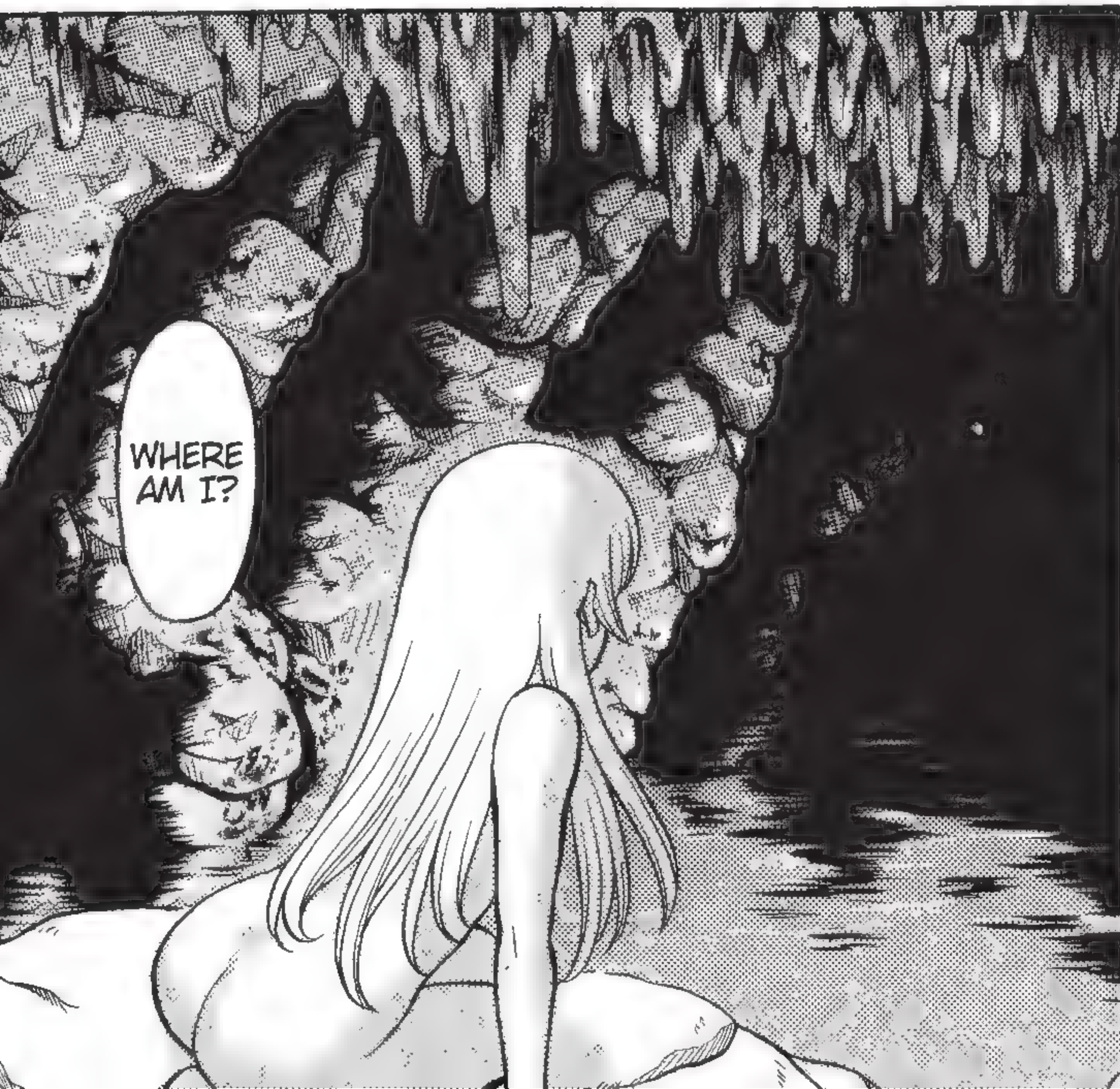
WHAT
...?



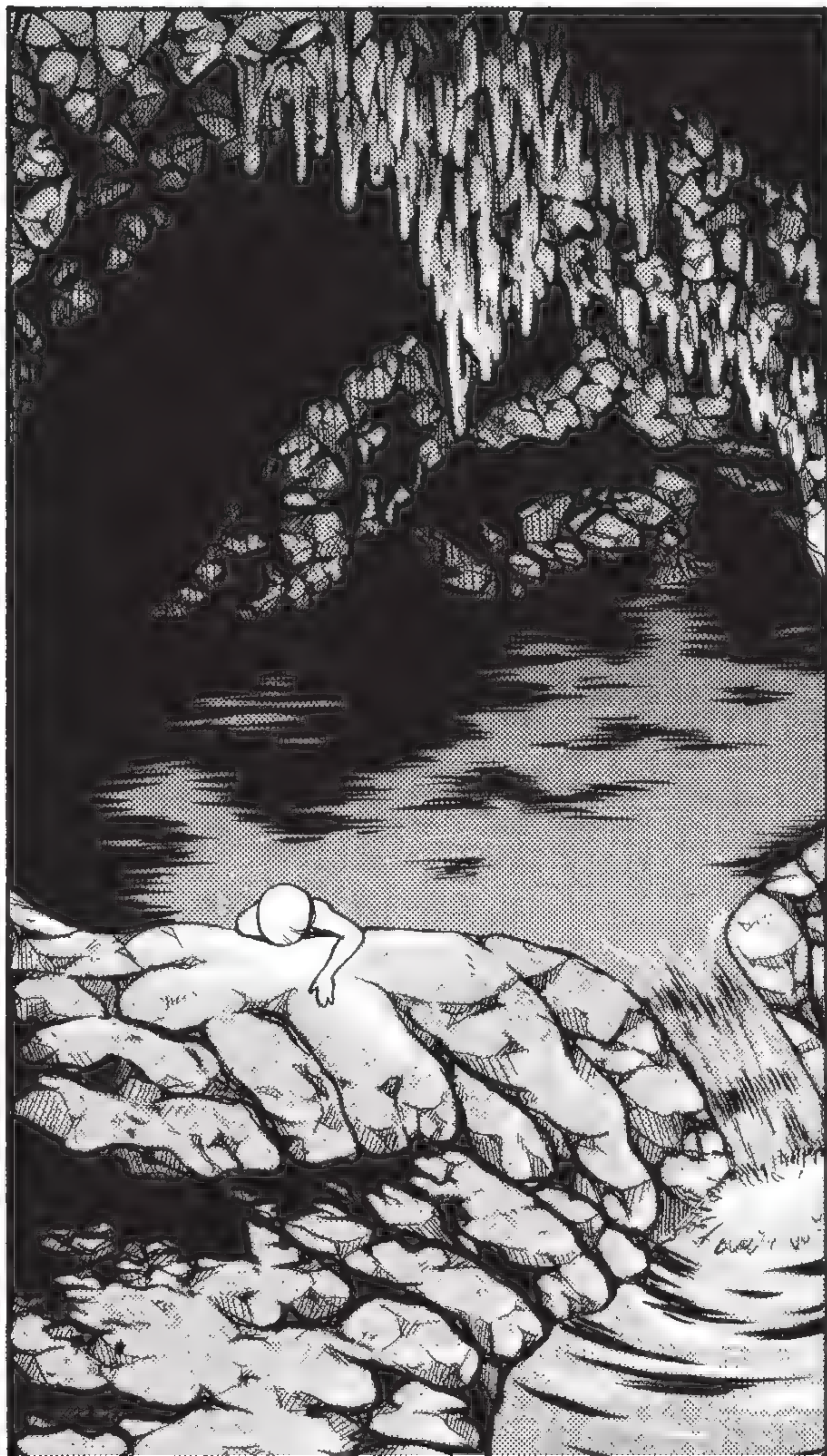
THEY
SUSPECT
THAT SHE
HAS FALLEN
INTO ONE
OF THE
CREVASSES
LEADING
INTO THE
"ABYSS."

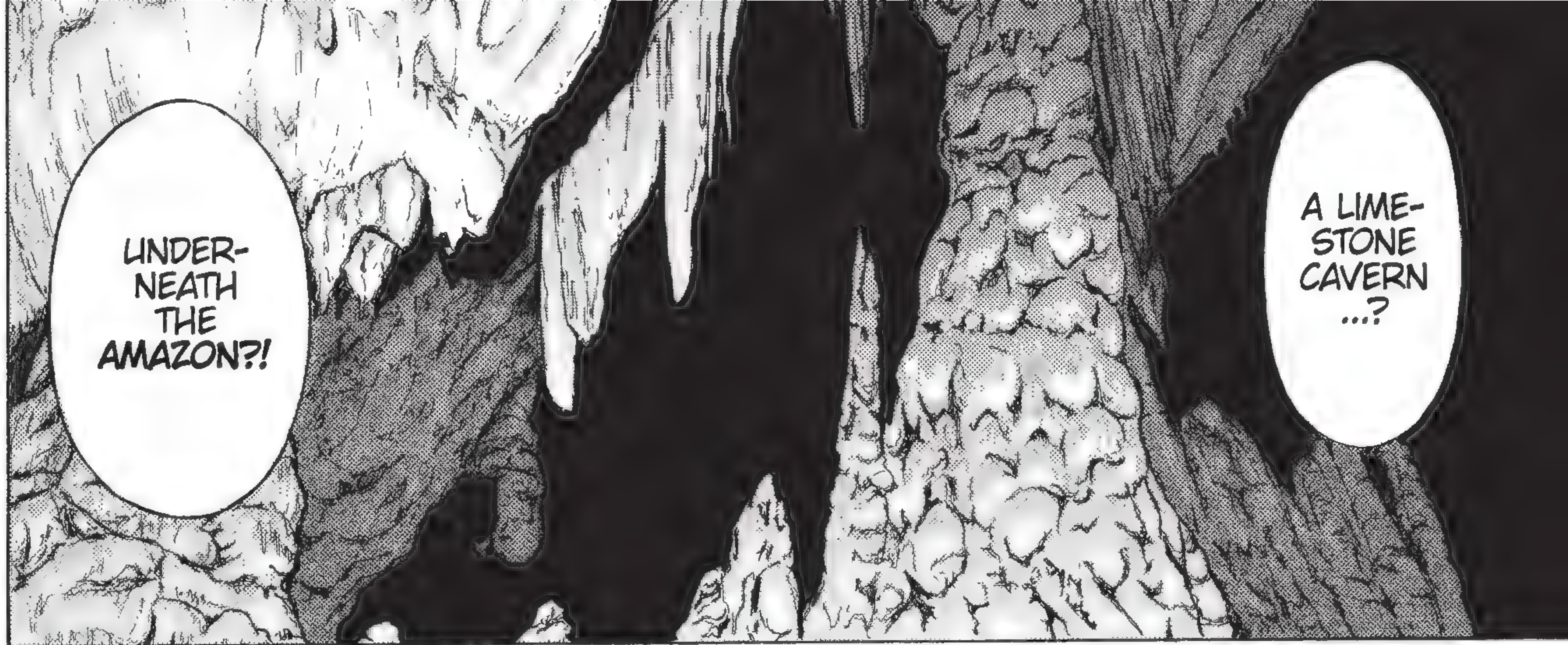


NH...



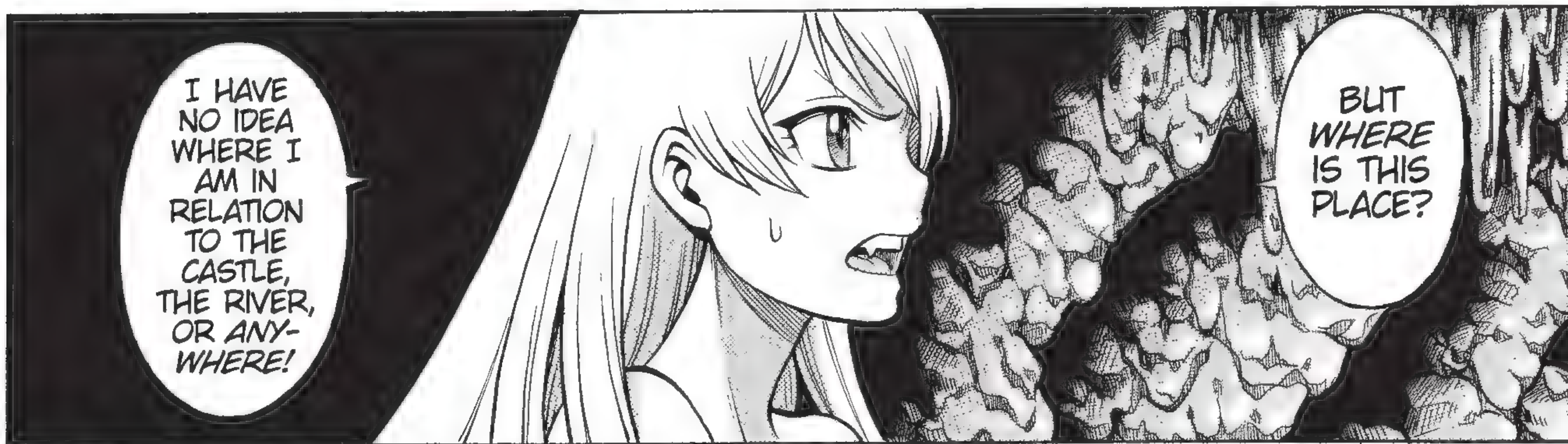
WHERE
AM I?





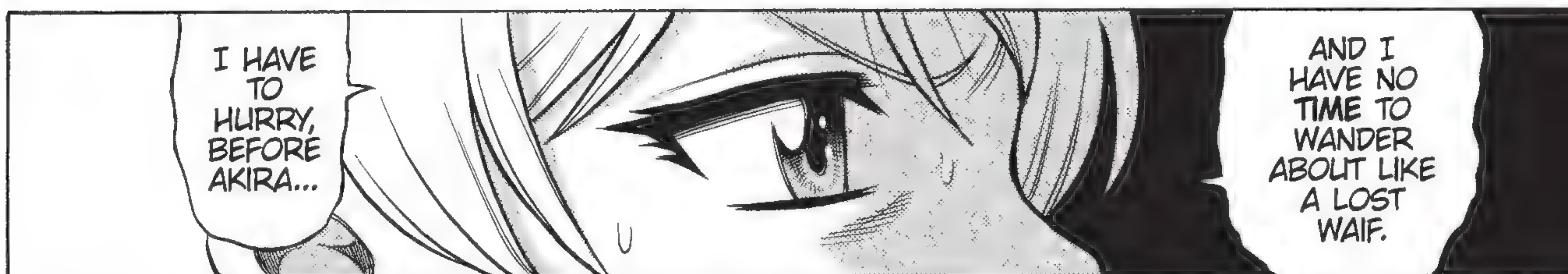
UNDER-
NEATH
THE
AMAZON?!

A LIME-
STONE
CAVERN
...?



I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHERE I
AM IN
RELATION
TO THE
CASTLE,
THE RIVER,
OR ANY-
WHERE!

BUT
WHERE
IS THIS
PLACE?

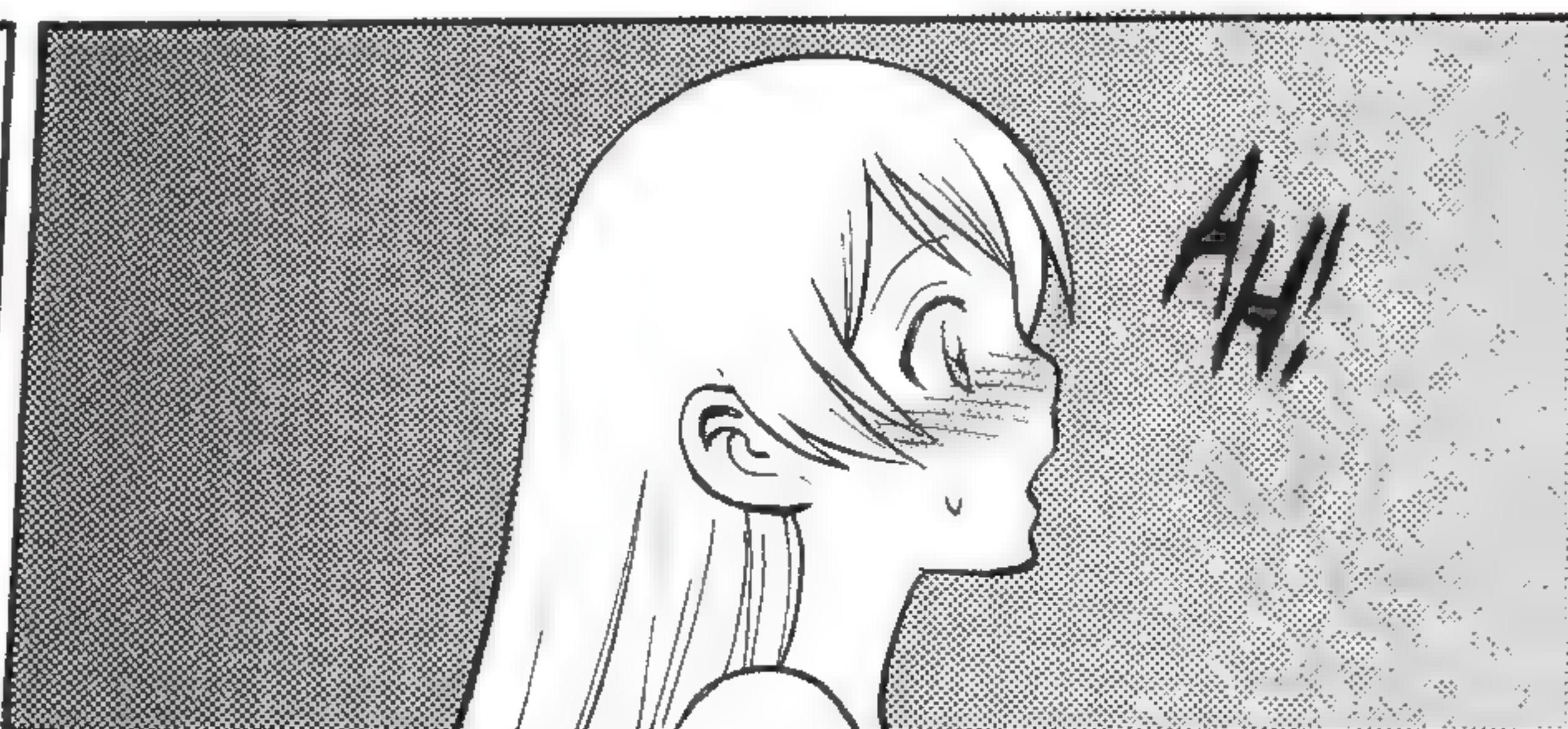


I HAVE
TO
HURRY,
BEFORE
AKIRA...

AND I
HAVE NO
TIME TO
WANDER
ABOUT LIKE
A LOST
WIF.



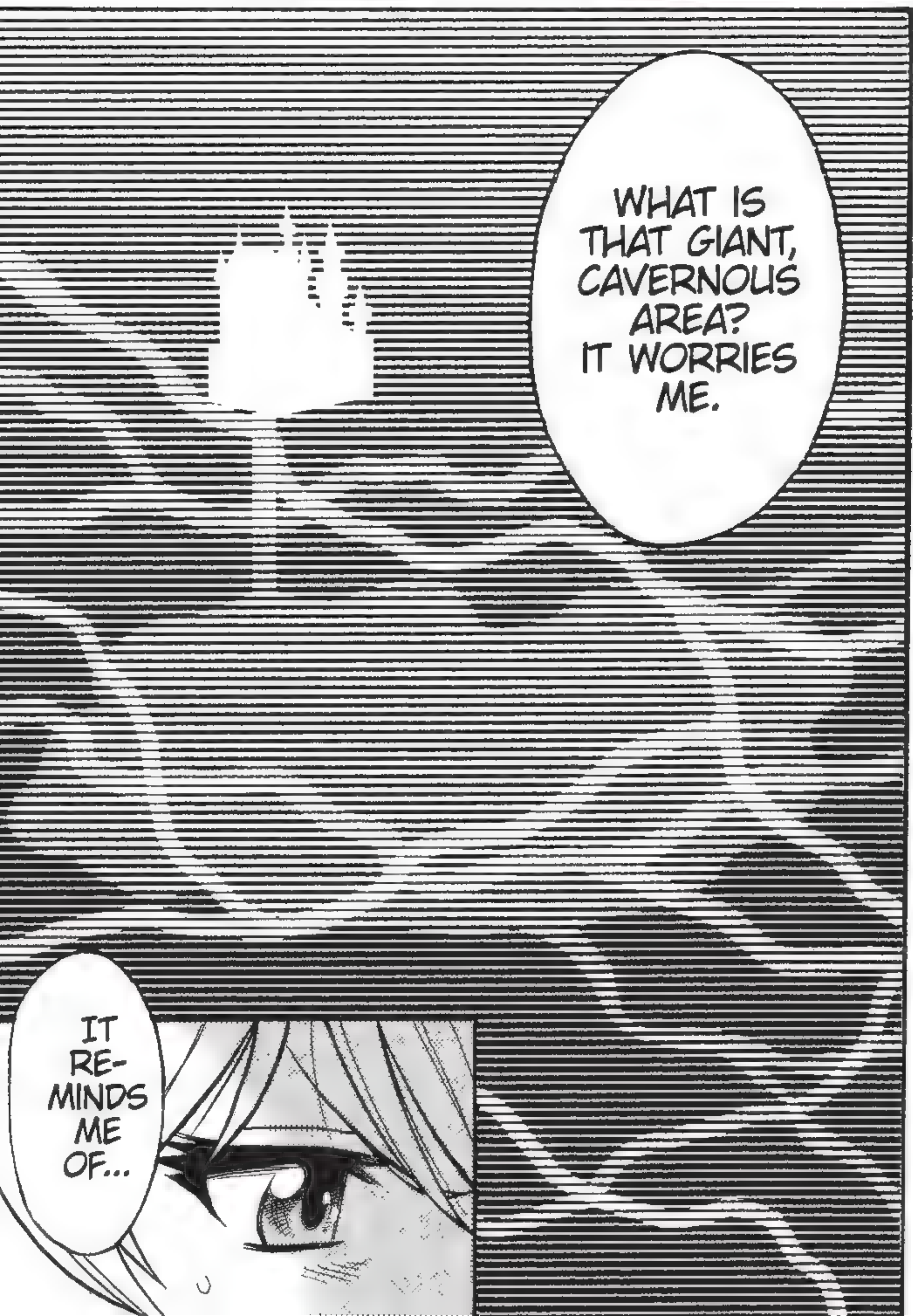
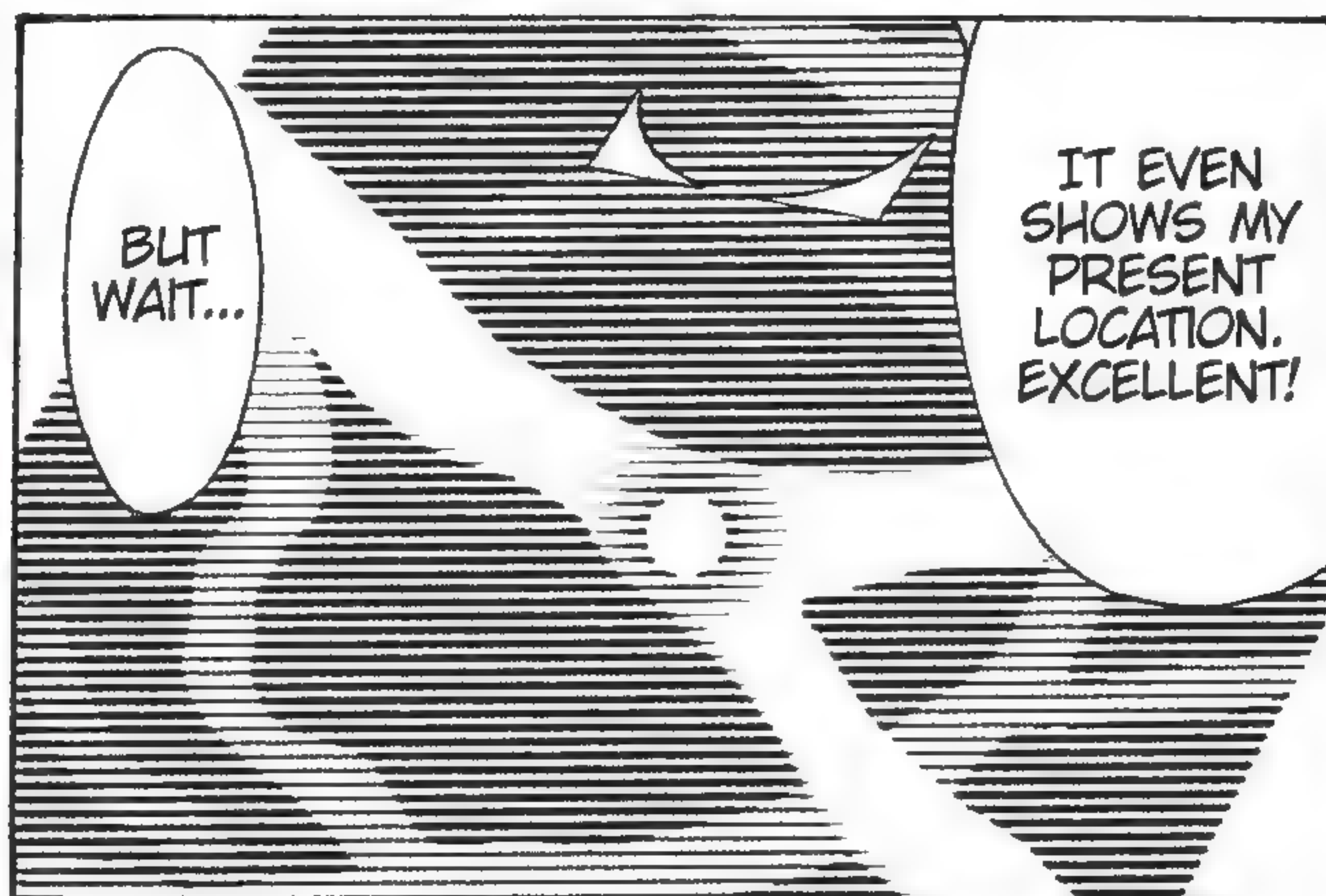
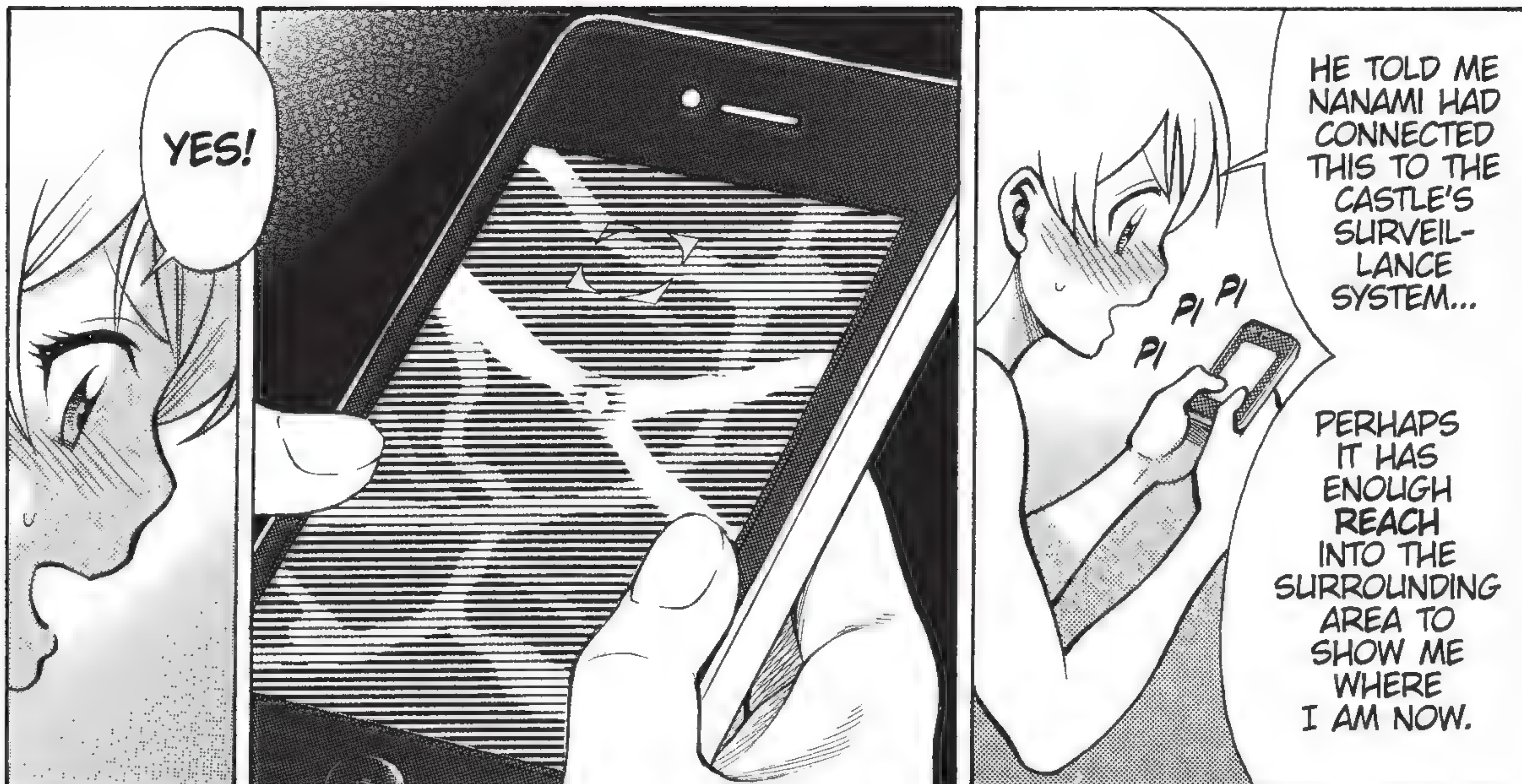
AKIRA'S
SMART-
PHONE...

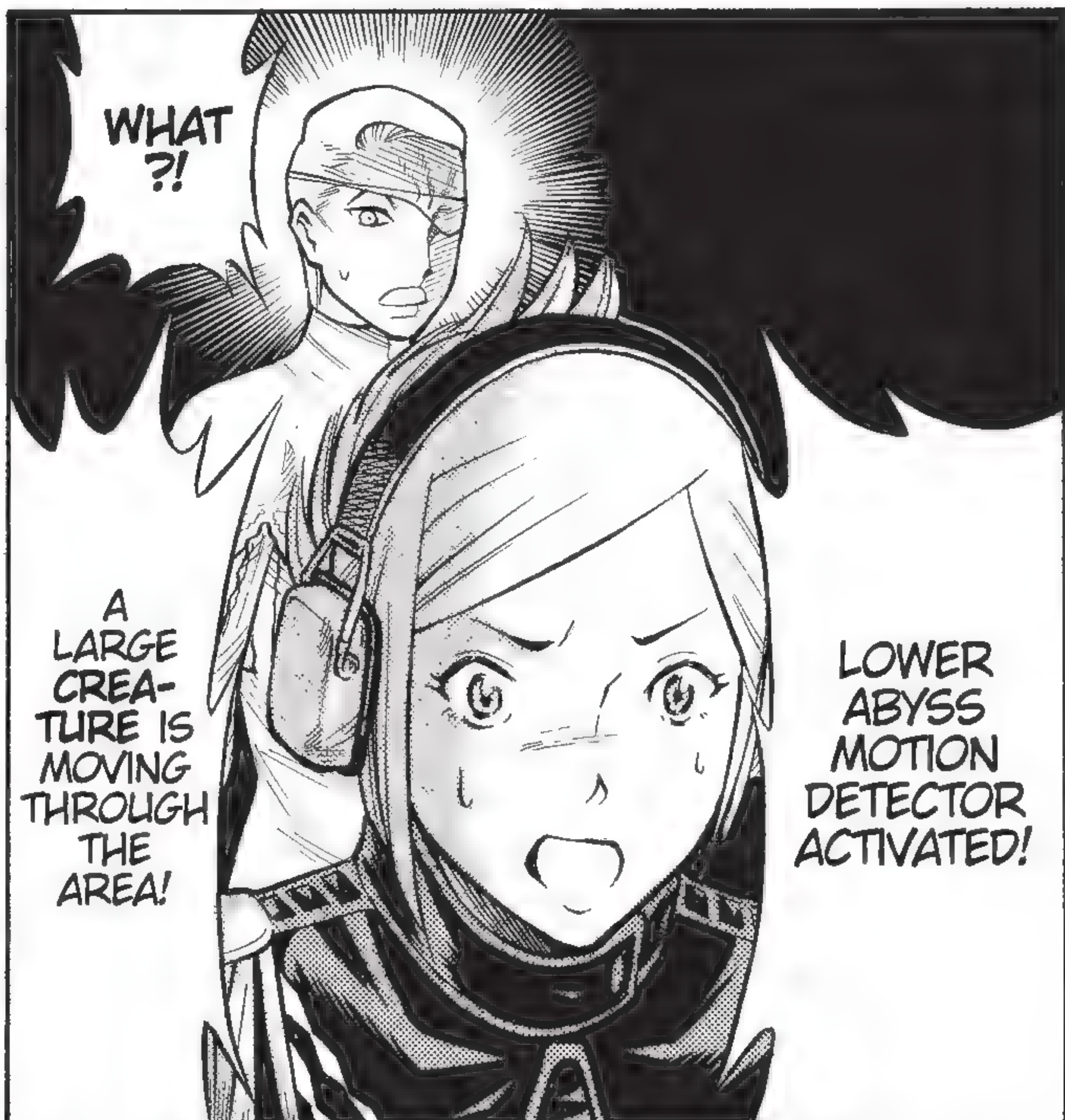
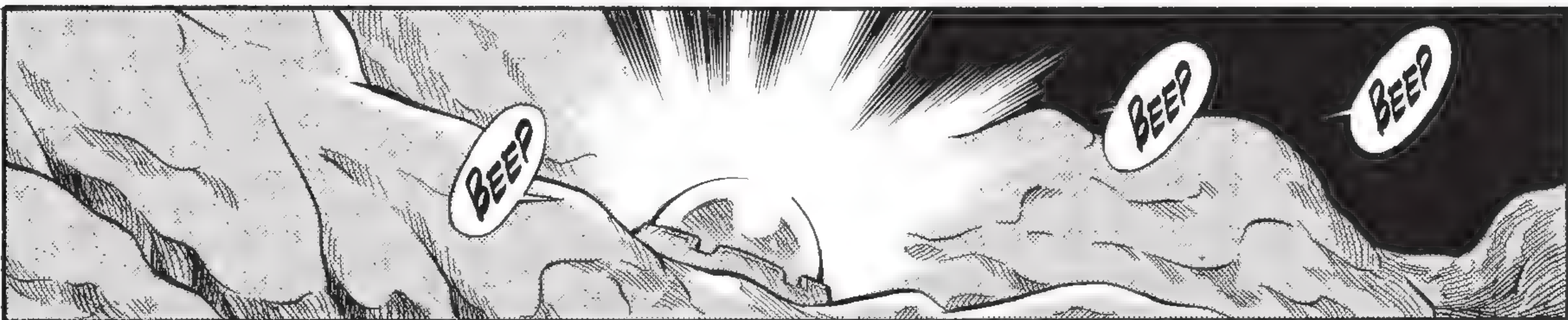


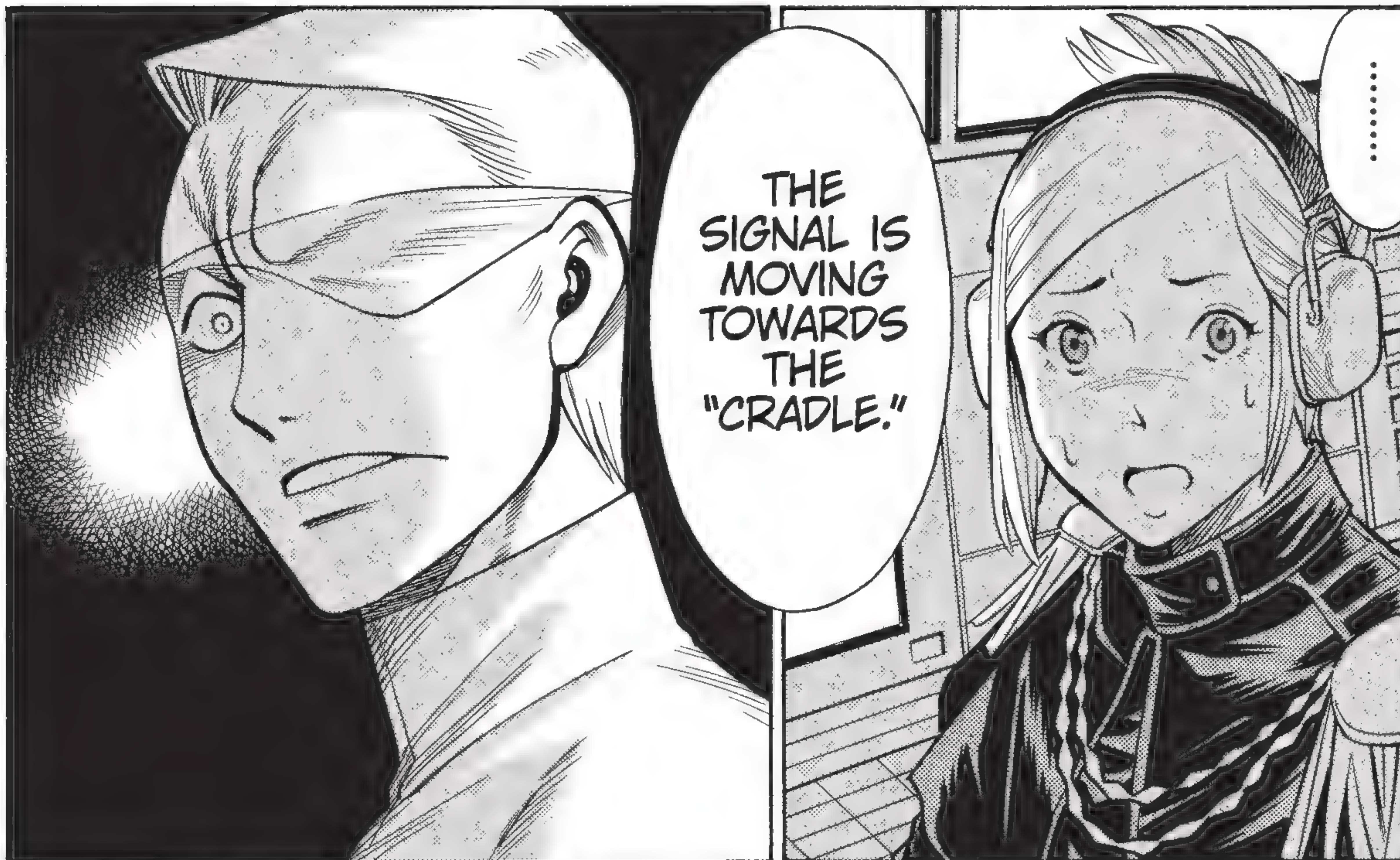
AH!



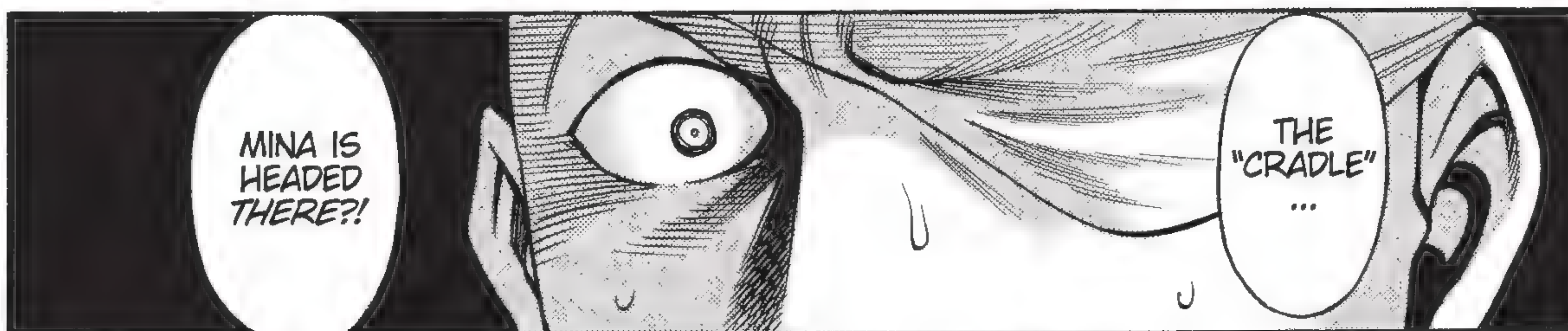
H N N G H !







THE
SIGNAL IS
MOVING
TOWARDS
THE
"CRADLE."



MINA IS
HEADED
THERE?!

THE
"CRADLE"
...



MY LORD,
DO YOU NOT
REMEMBER?!
YOU ORDERED
THE TUNNELS
LEADING TO IT
DETONATED
BUT A FEW
HOURS AGO!

ANY PATH
FROM HERE
IS NOW
BLOCKED
BY TONS OF
RUBBLE!



MINA
MUST
NOT
ENTER
THE
"CRADLE"
!!

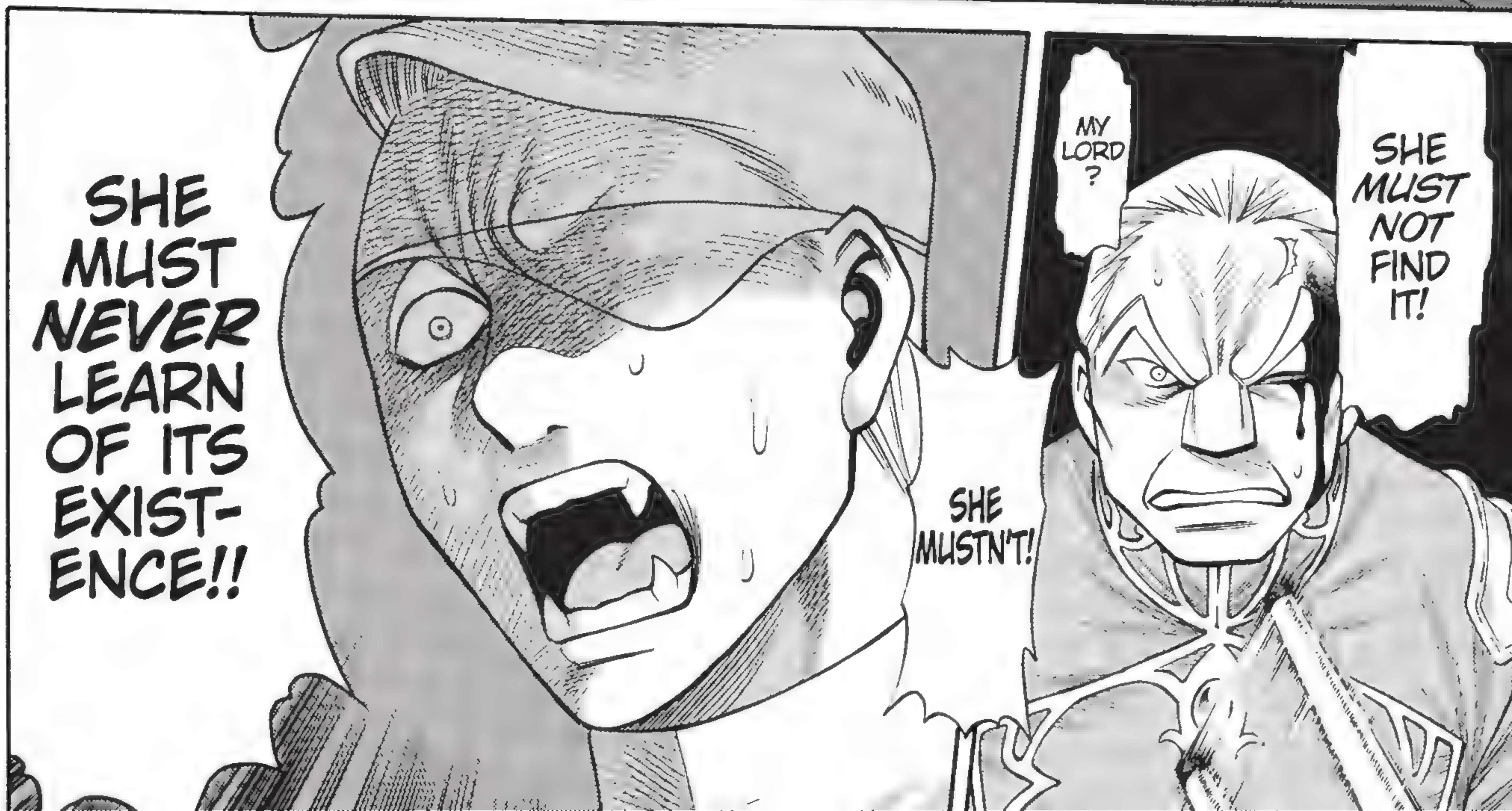
SEND
OUT A
SQUAD
OF
SOLDIERS
TO
INTERCEPT
HER AT
ONCE!



THEN
DIG
THEM
OUT!!

THWACK

DON'T
STAND
THERE,
GAPING
LIKE A
LOON!
GET TO
WORK!!

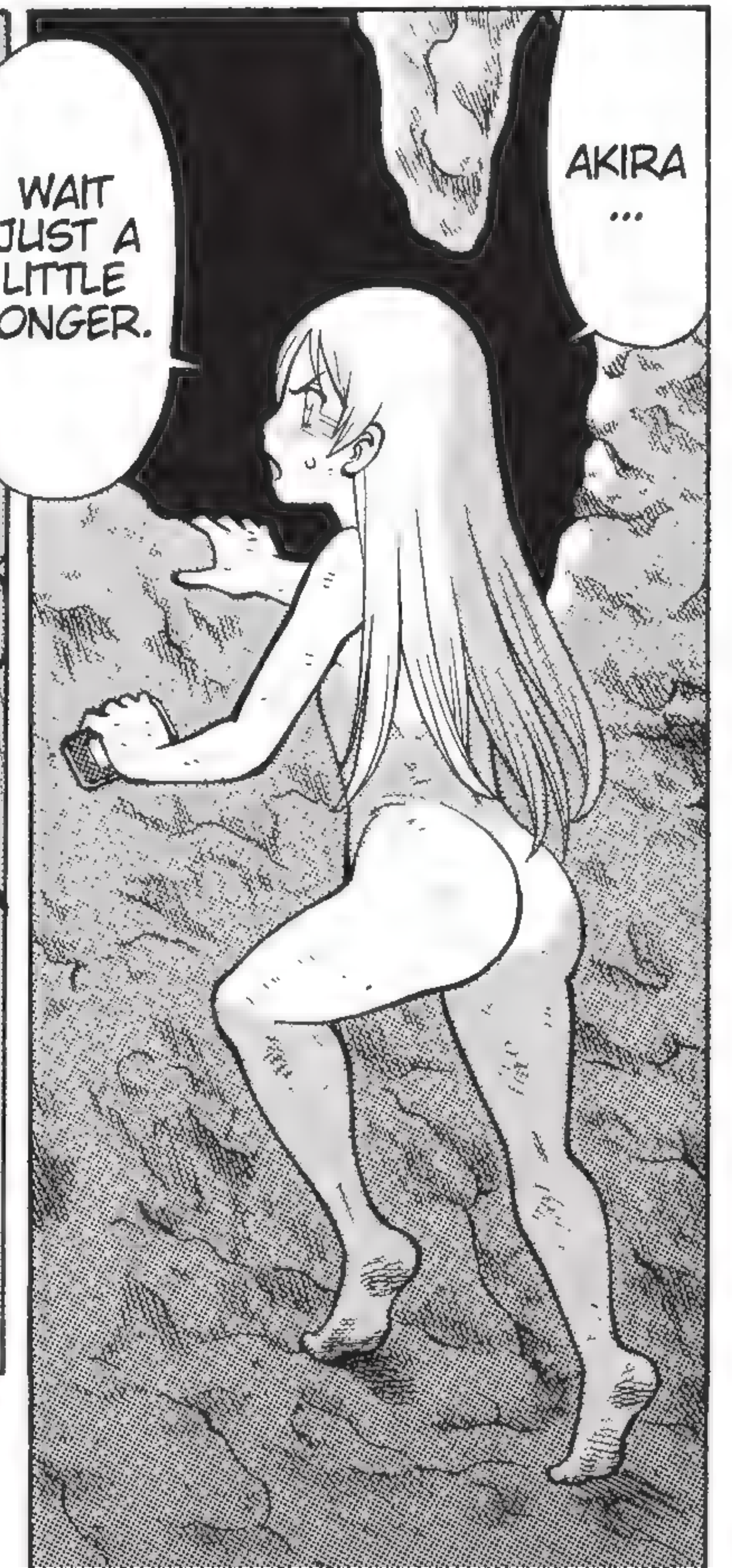
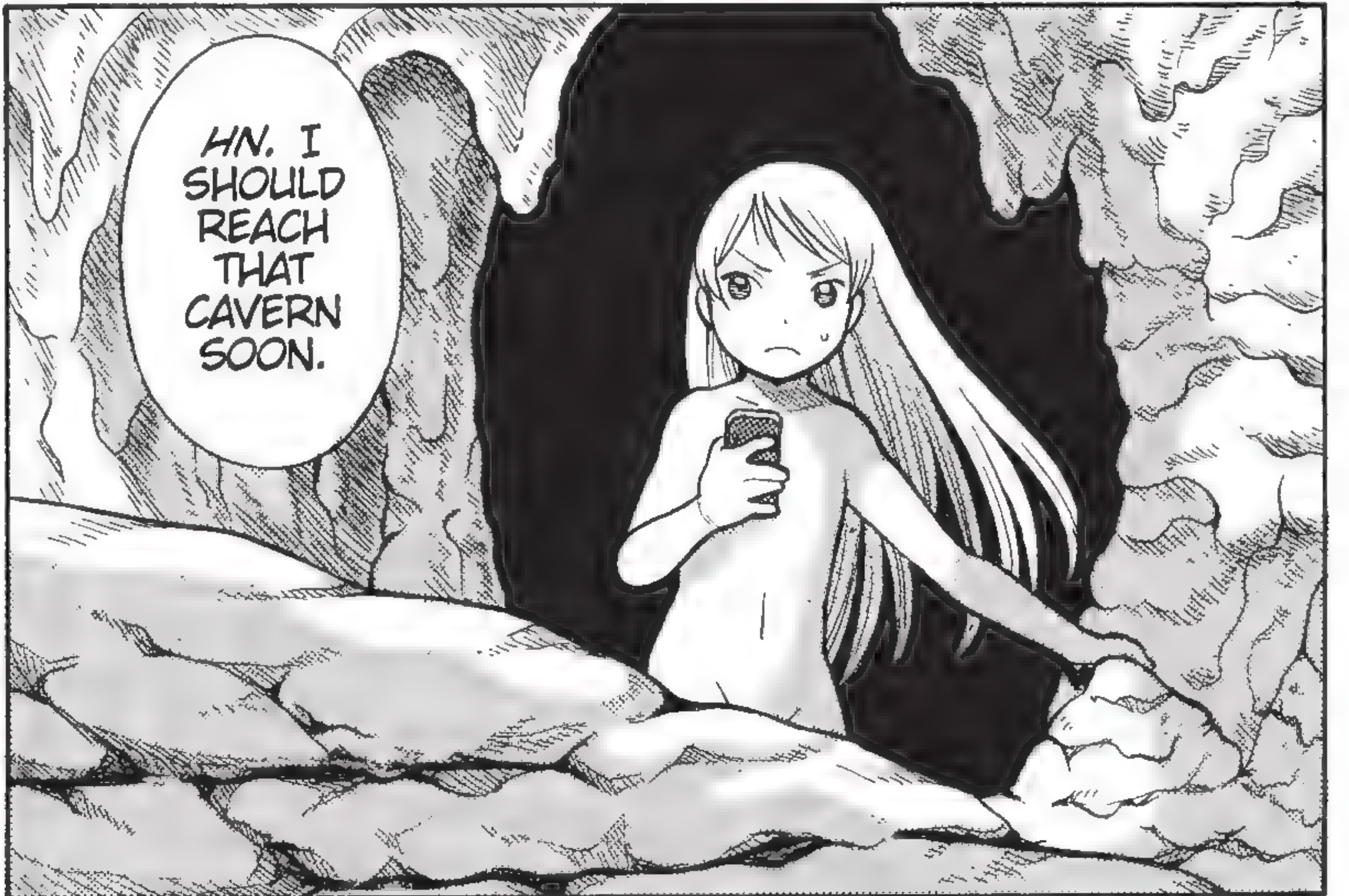


SHE
MUST
NEVER
LEARN
OF ITS
EXIST-
ENCE!!

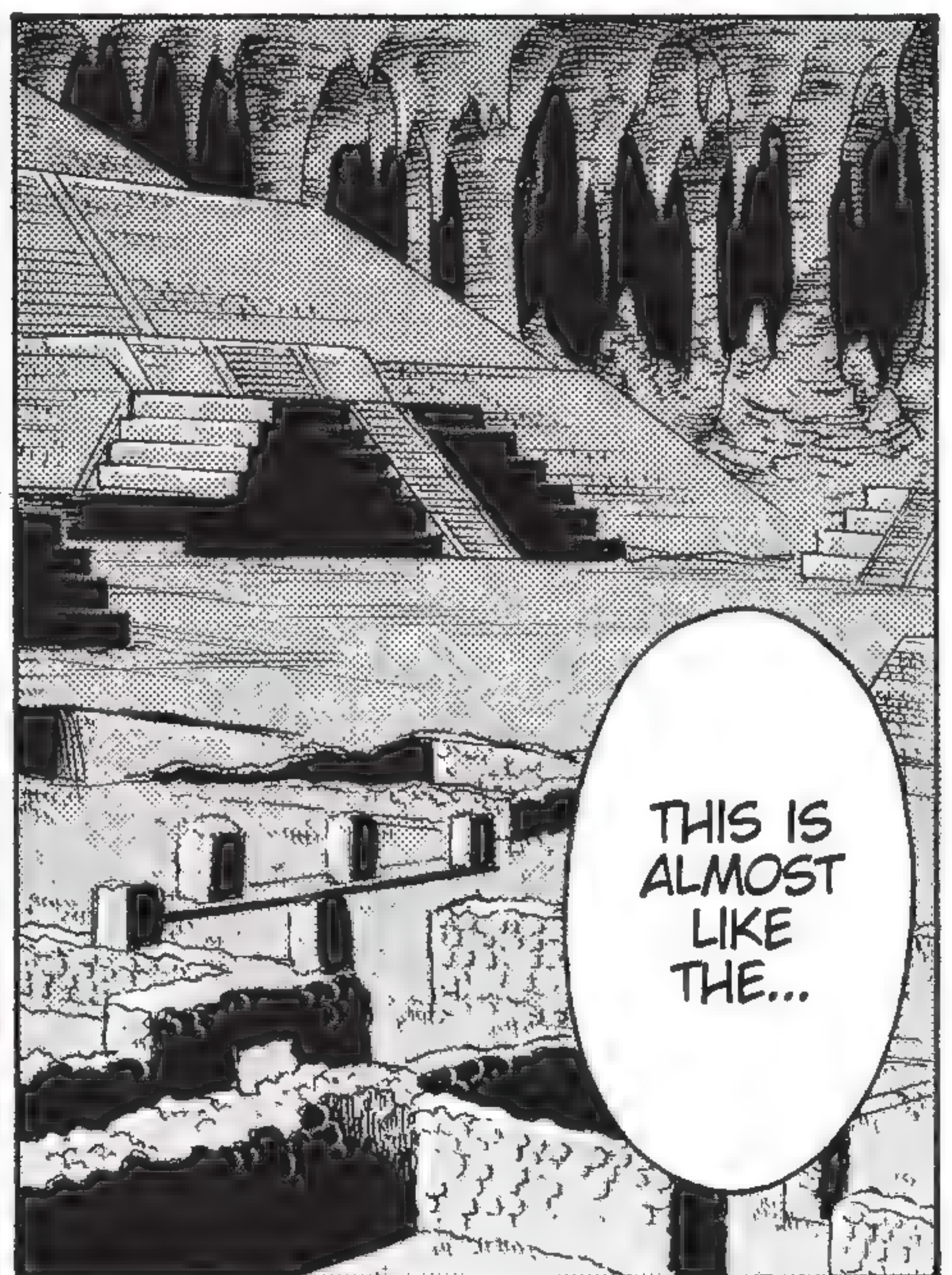
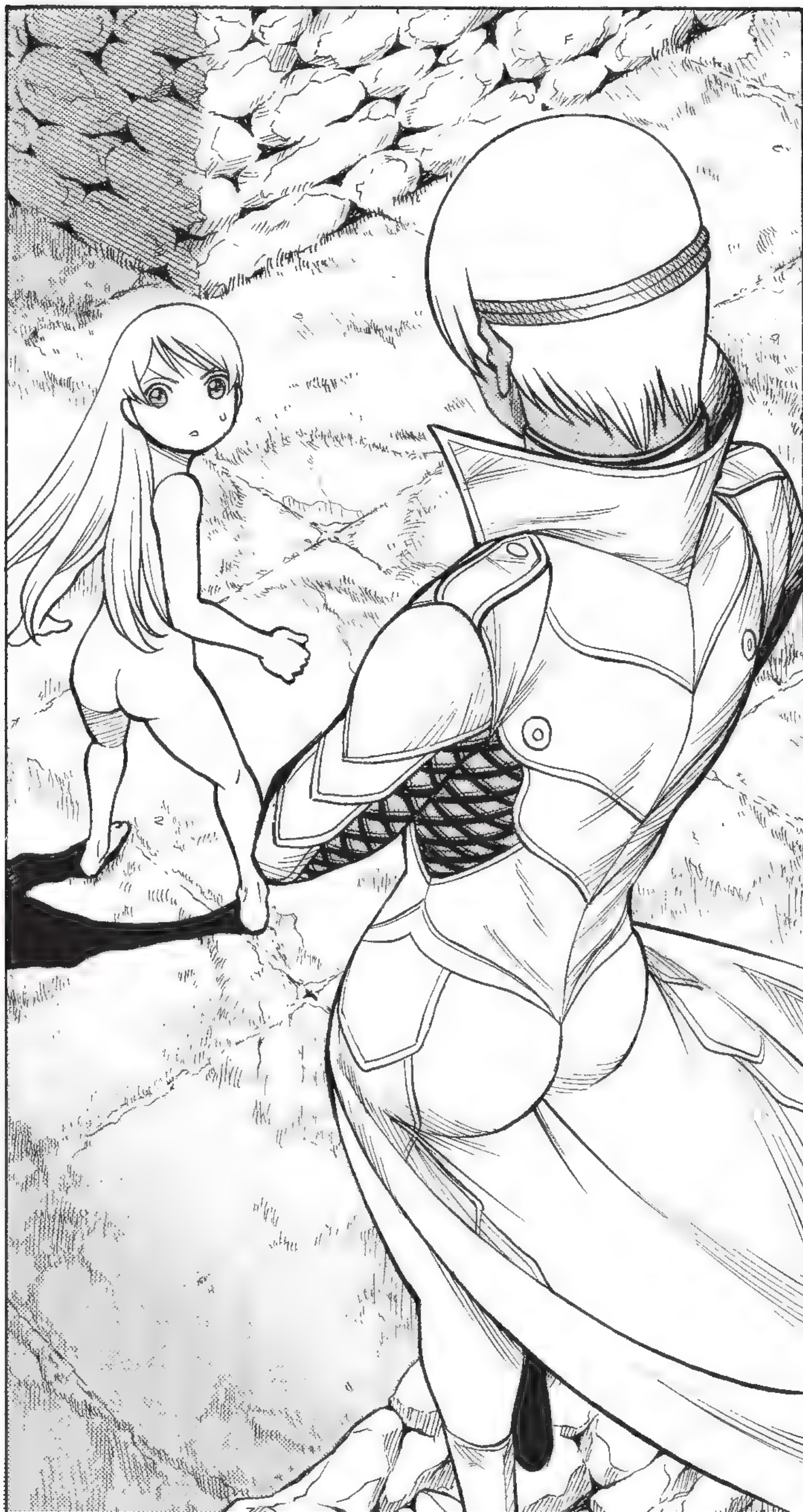
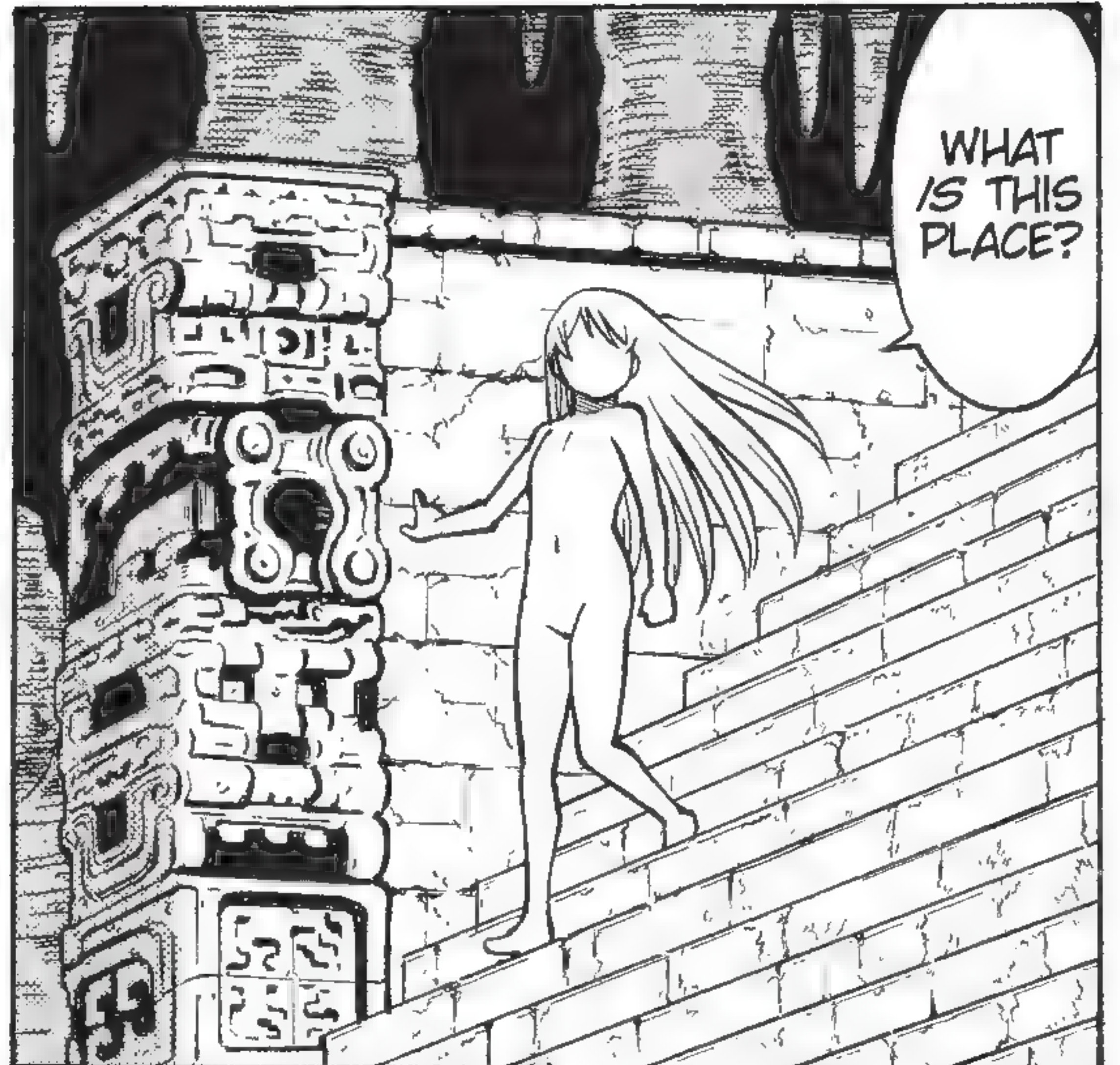
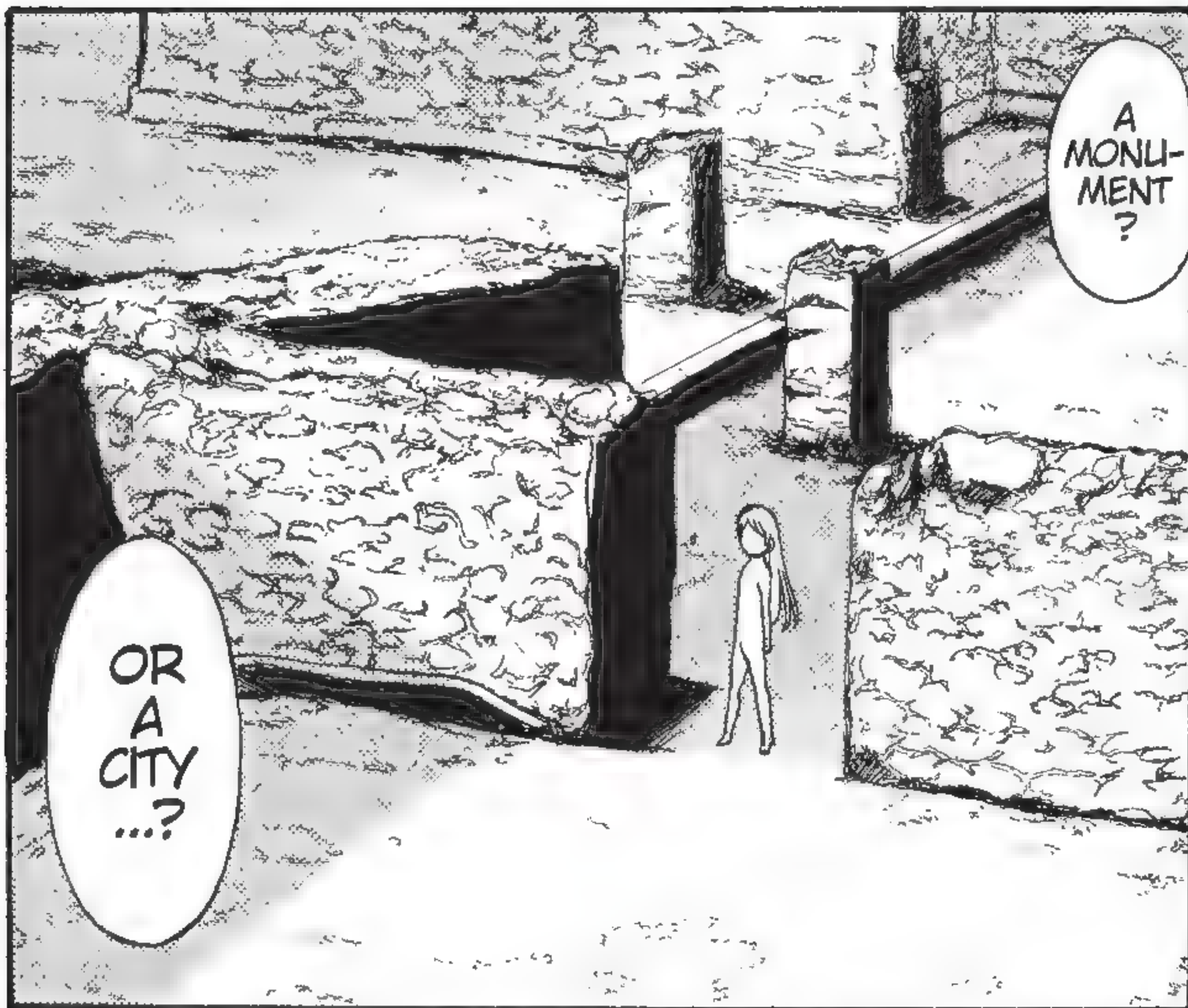
MY
LORD
?

SHE
MUST
NOT
FIND
IT!

SHE
MUSTN'T!









ANGIE...

ROZENMANN
CALLS THIS
PLACE HIS
"CRADLE."

JUST
LIKE YOU
DO YOURS,
UNDER-
NEATH
THE BUND.



HOW-
EVER

THAT IS
THE LEAST
OF YOUR
PROBLEMS.
ROZENMANN
COLLAPSED
ALL OF THE
TUNNELS
LEADING OUT
OF HERE.

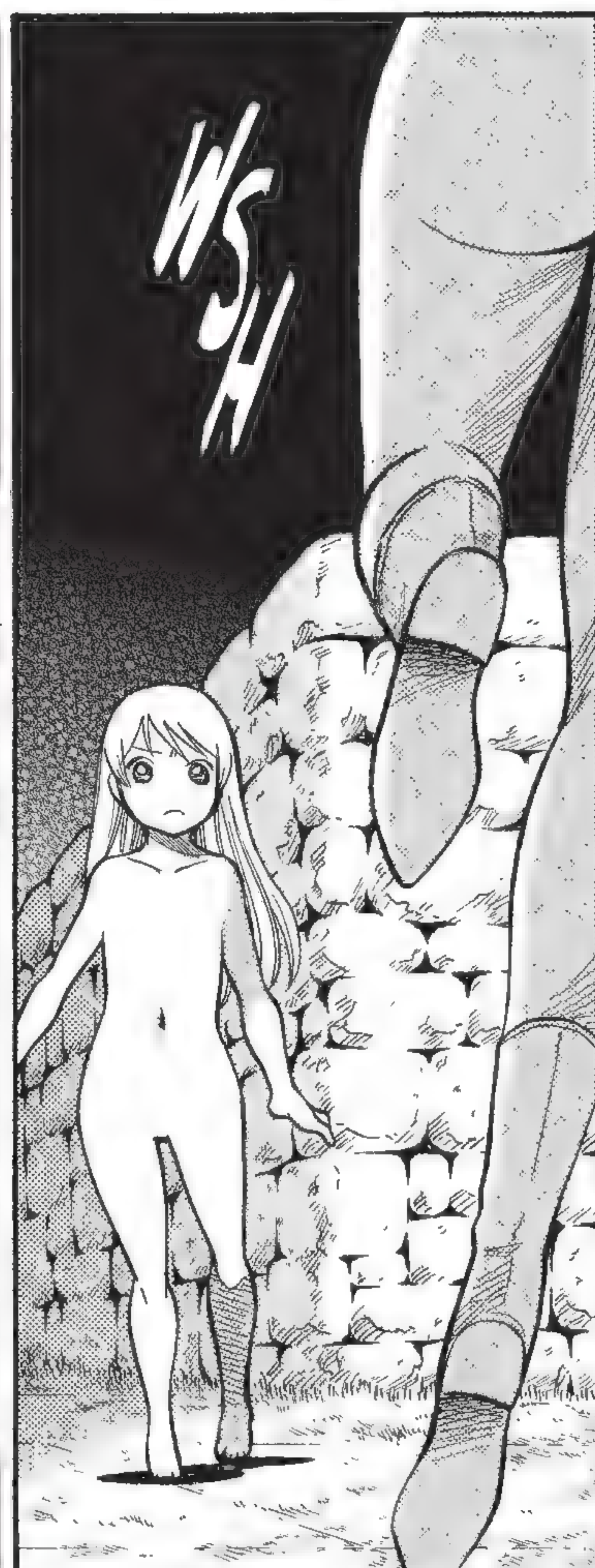


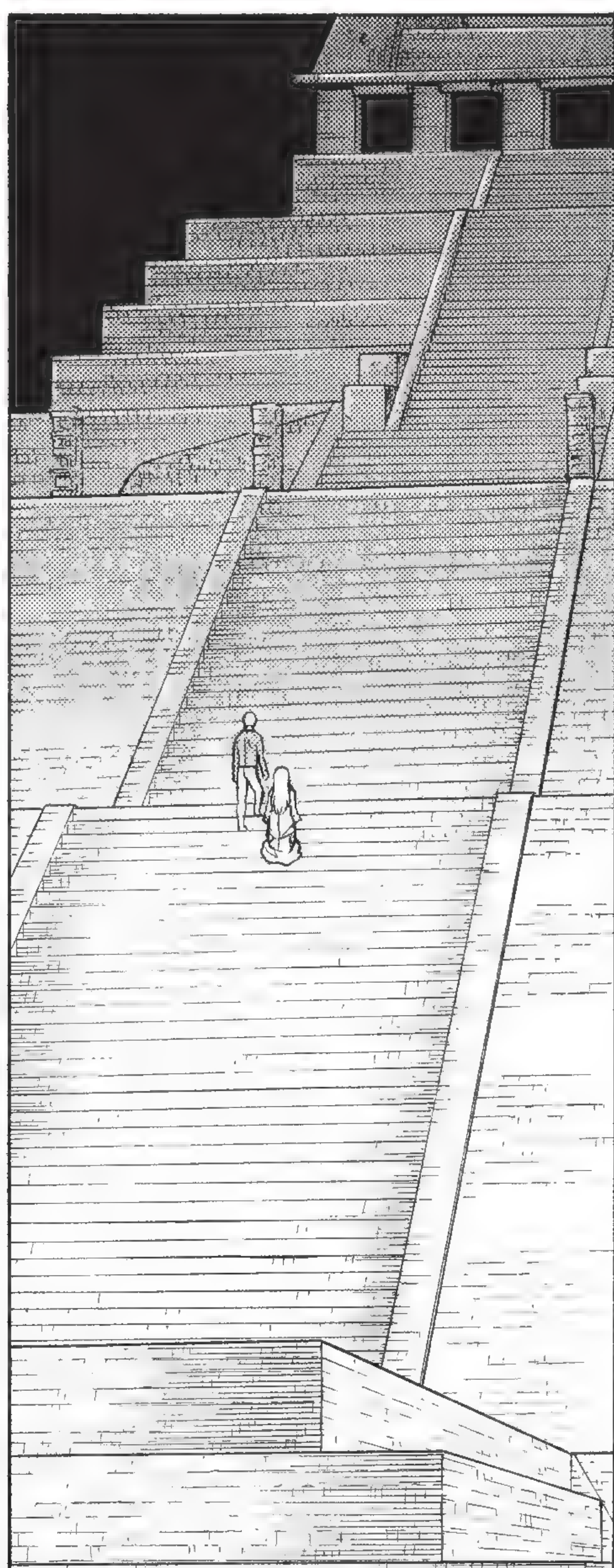
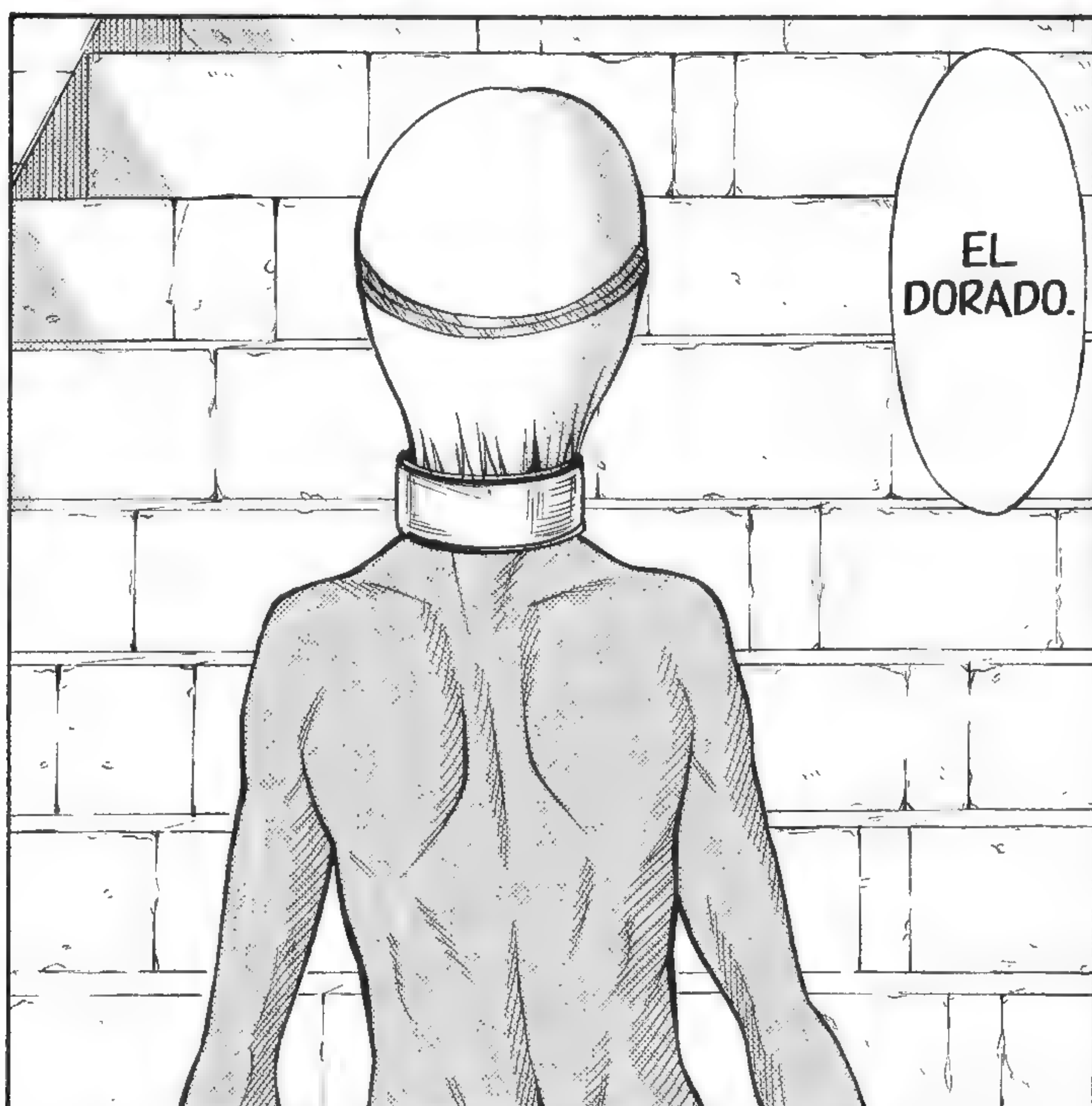
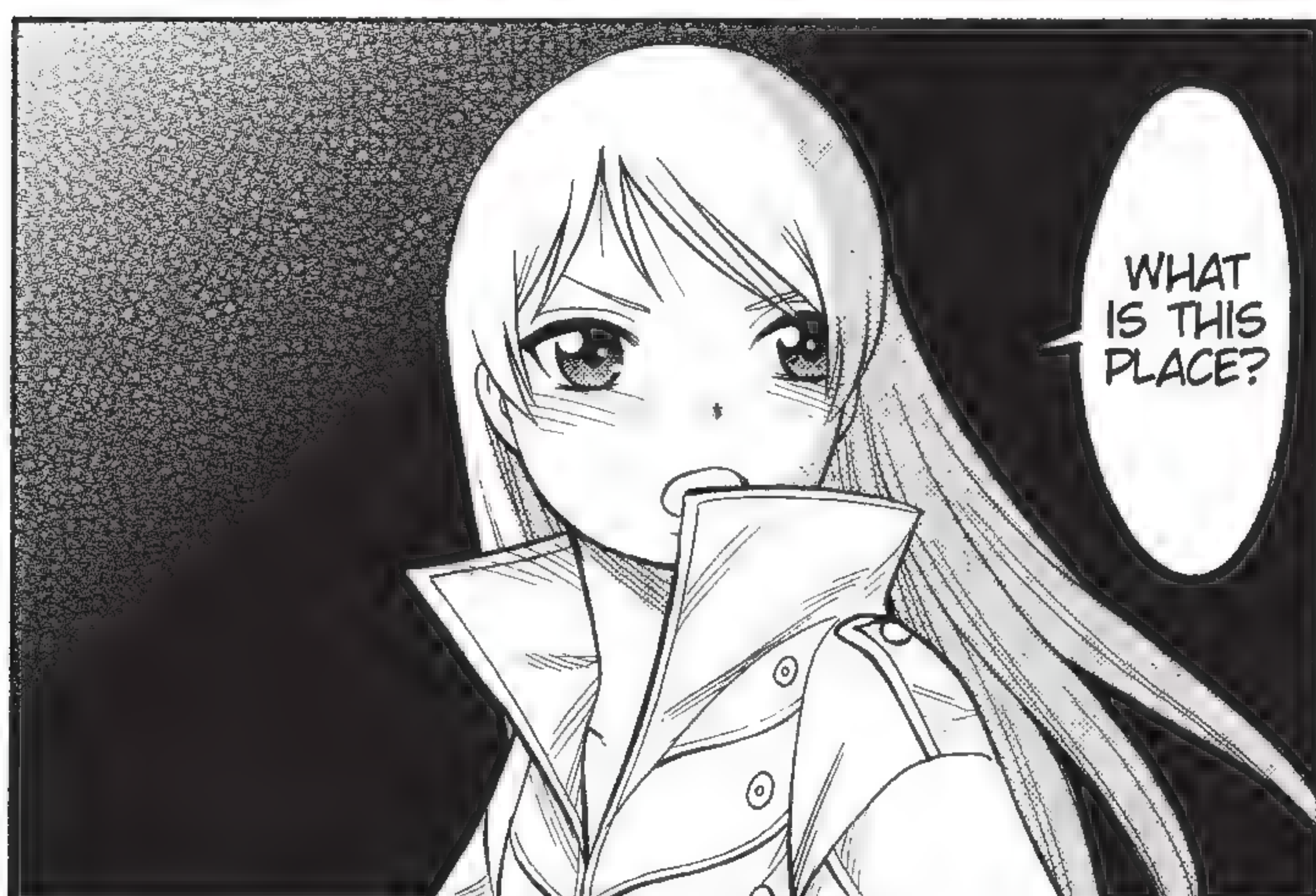
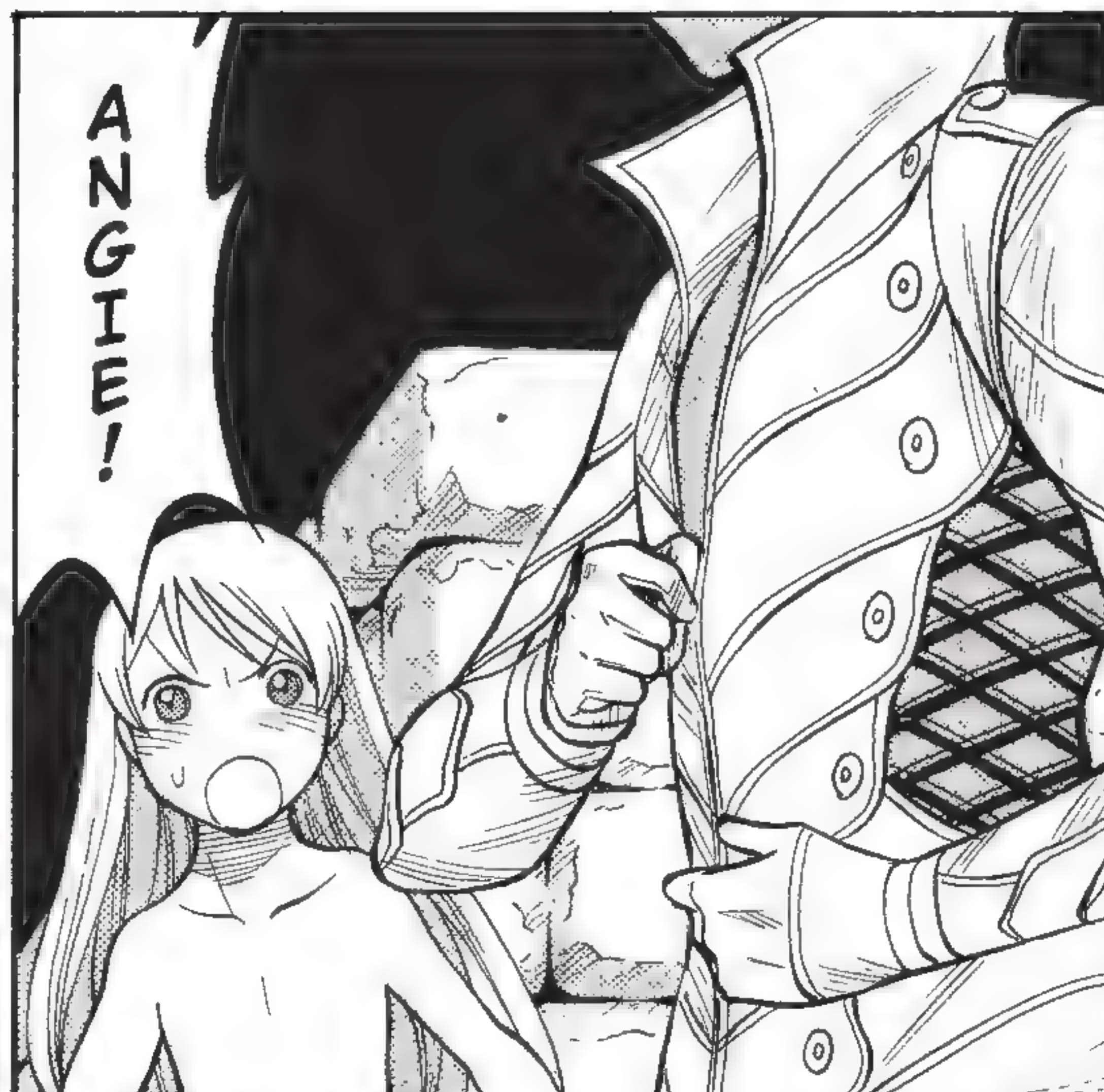
THEN
THERE
IS NO
WAY
UP?!

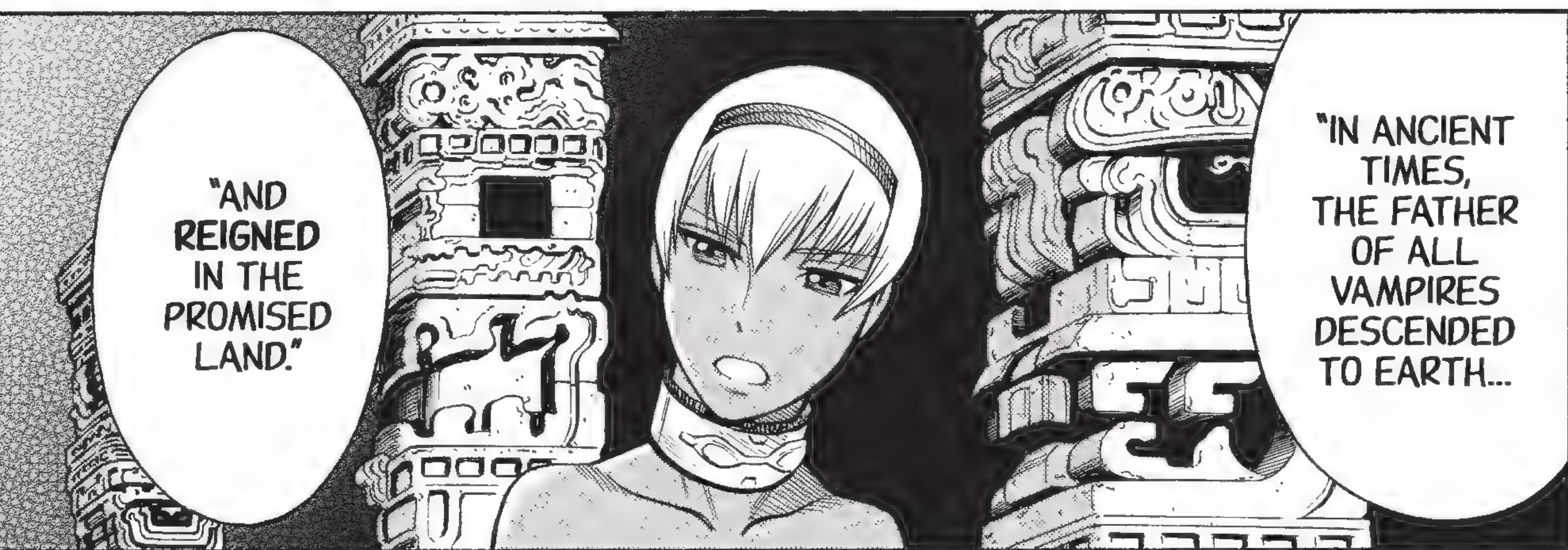


I WON'T
LET
ROZEN-
MANN
KNOW
YOU'RE
HERE.

DON'T
WORRY.
I AM
WORKING
COVERTLY
RIGHT
NOW.



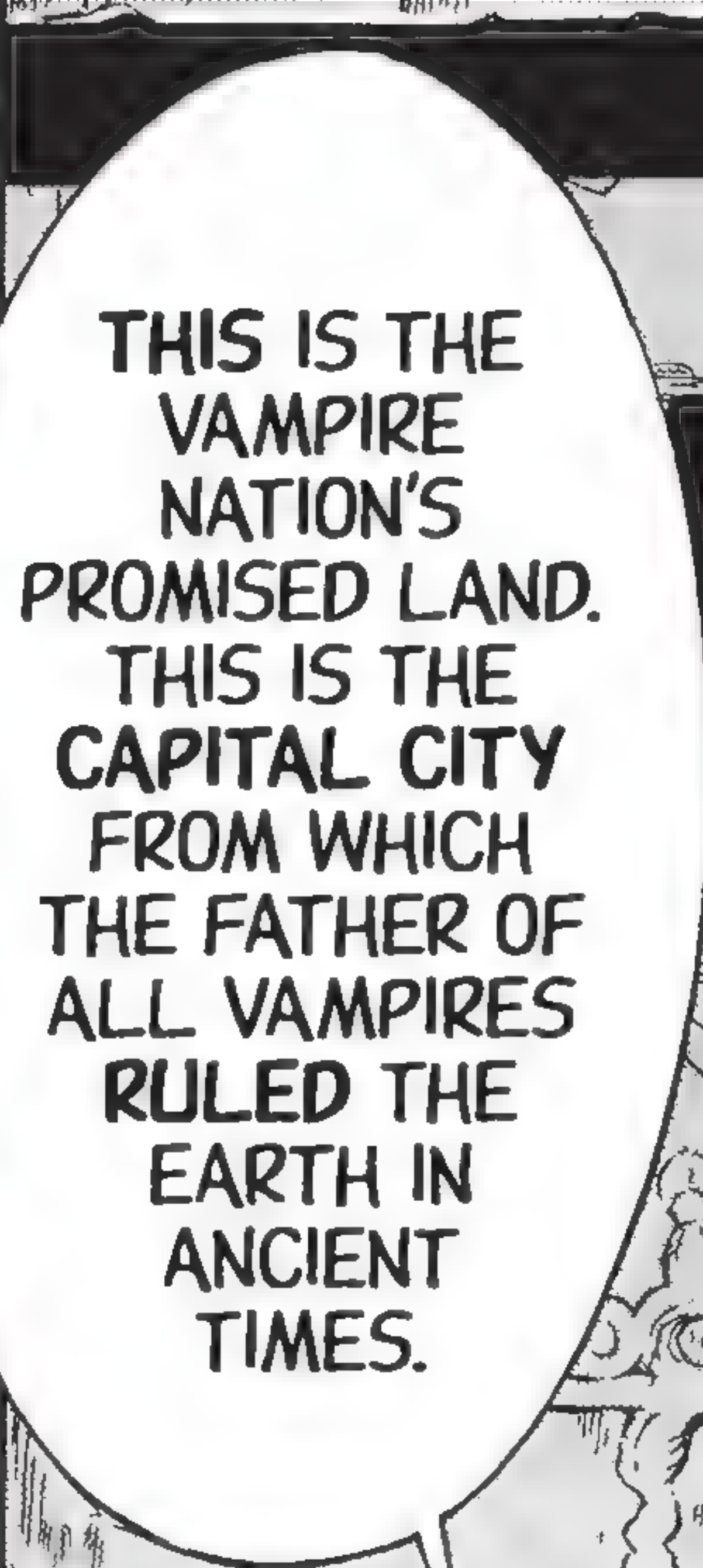






NECRO-
POLIS...

THE
HOME
OF MY
ANCES-
TORS.

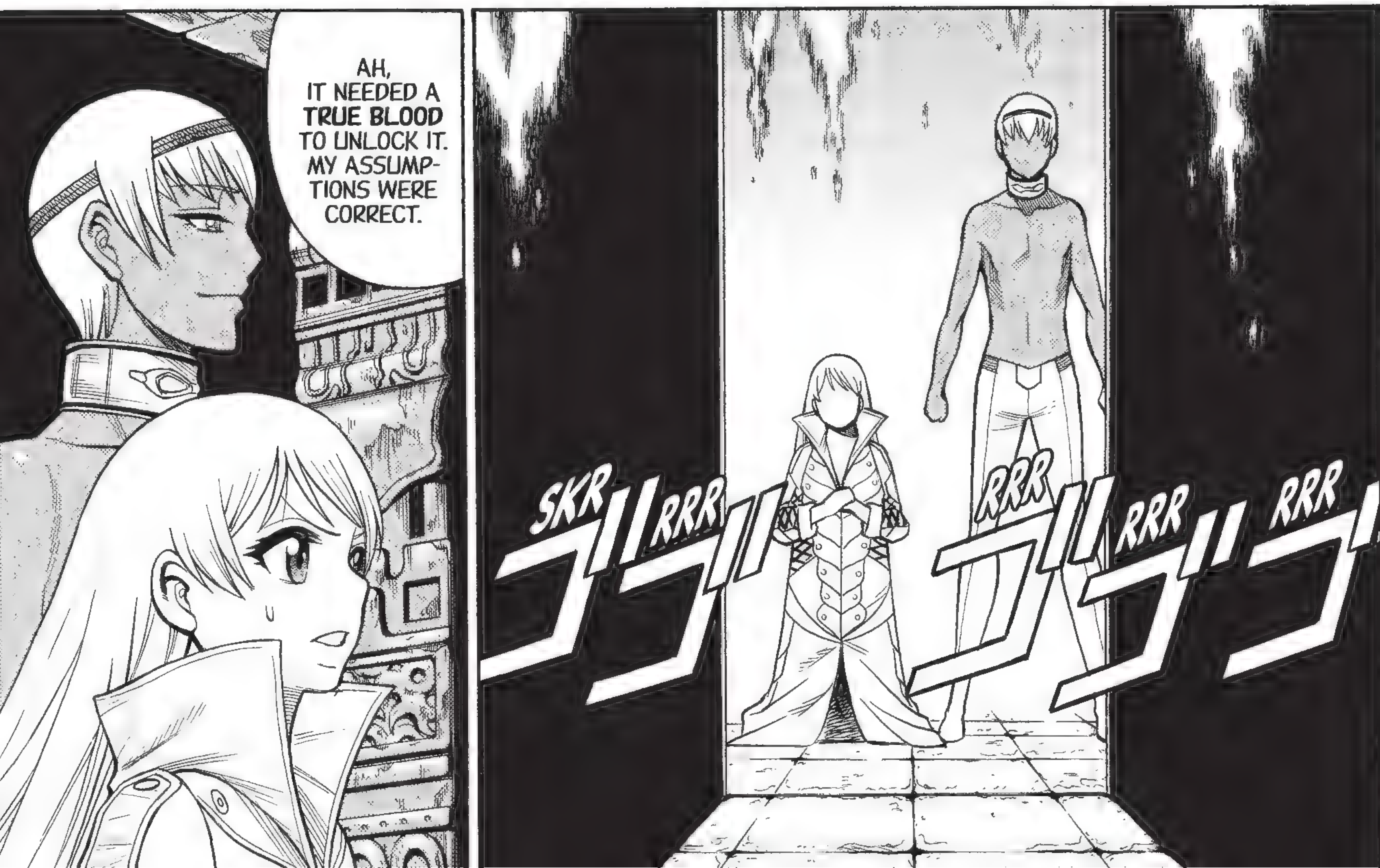
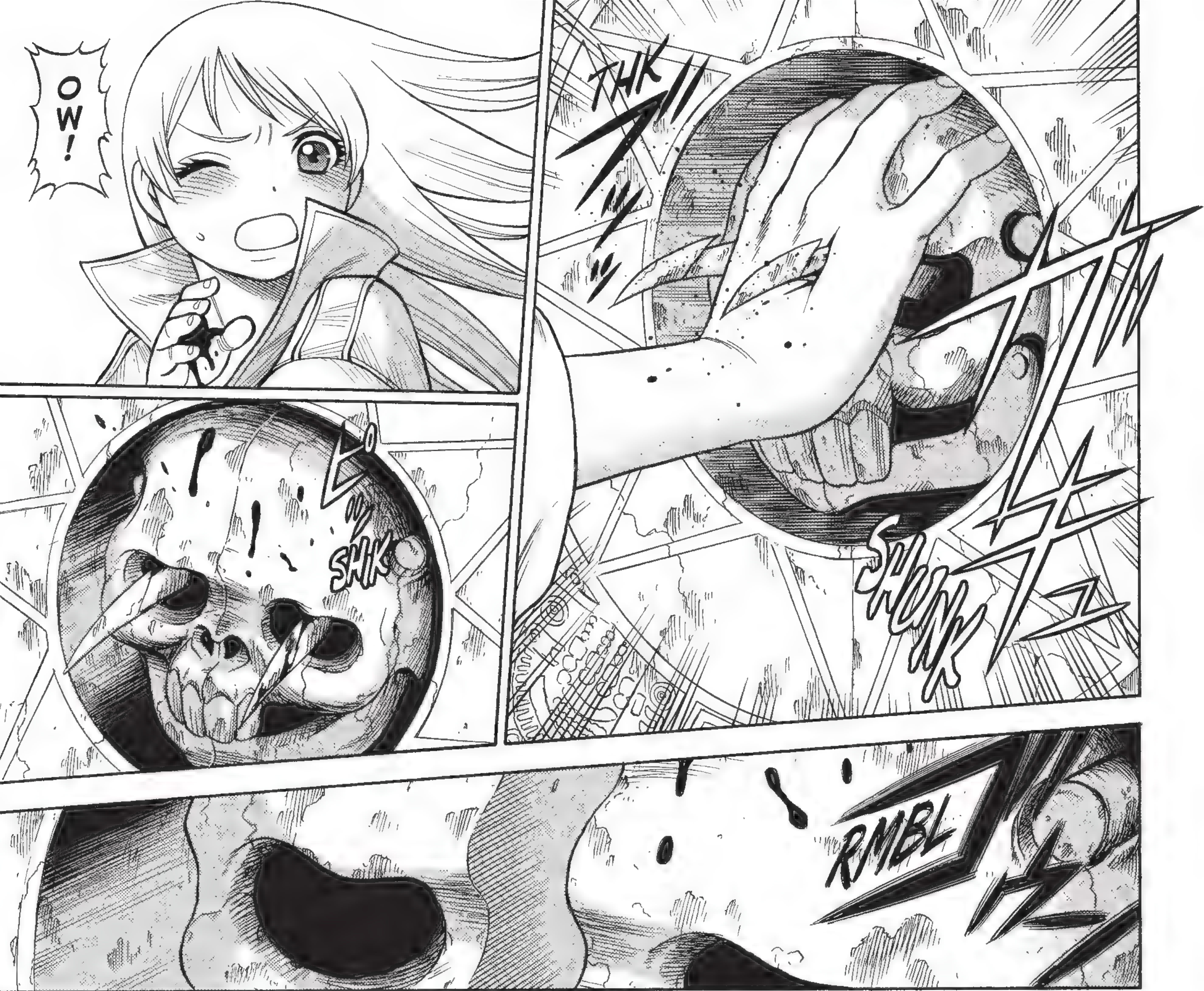


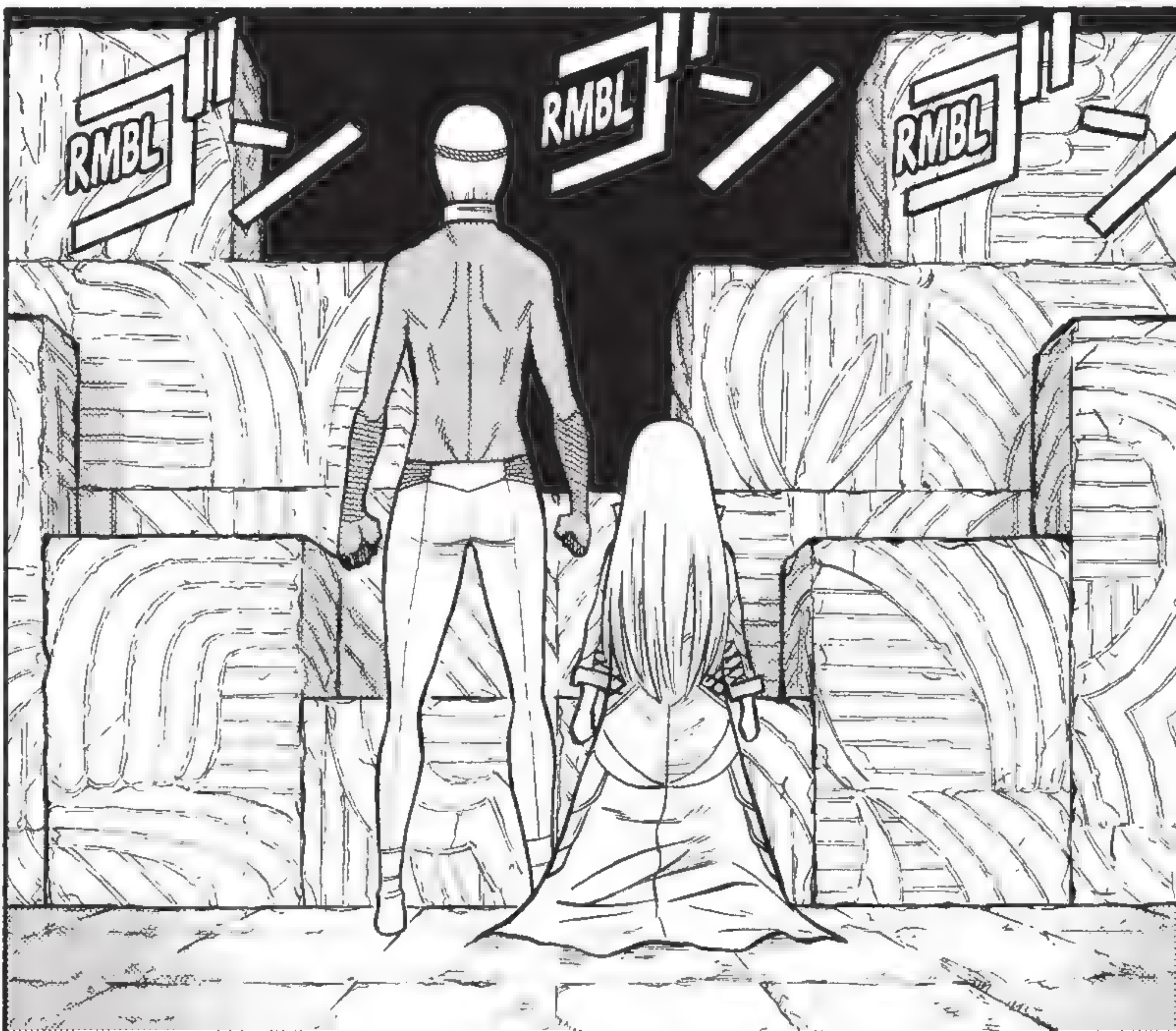
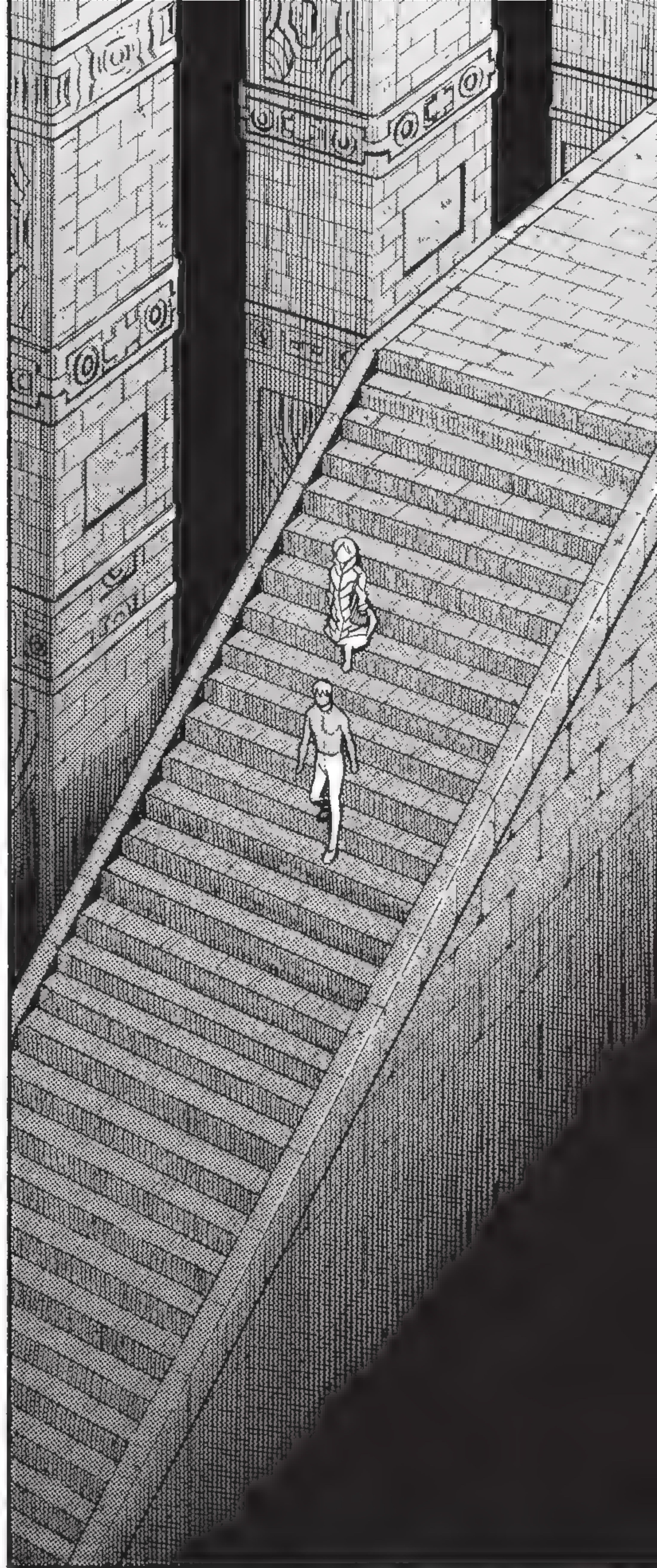
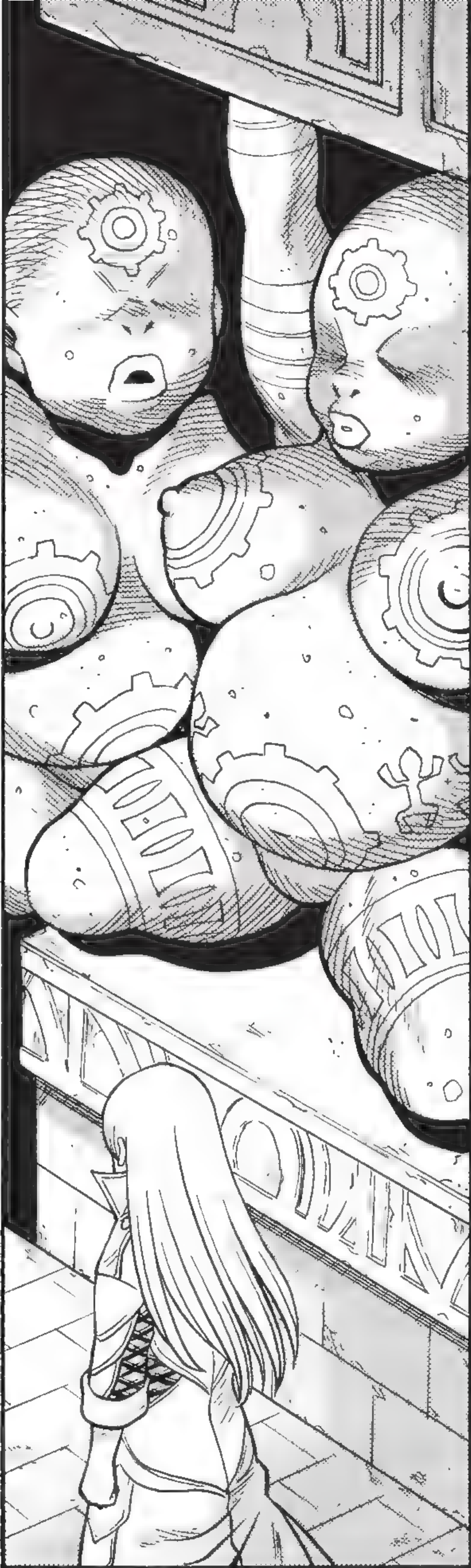
THIS IS THE
VAMPIRE
NATION'S
PROMISED LAND.
THIS IS THE
CAPITAL CITY
FROM WHICH
THE FATHER OF
ALL VAMPIRES
RULED THE
EARTH IN
ANCIENT
TIMES.

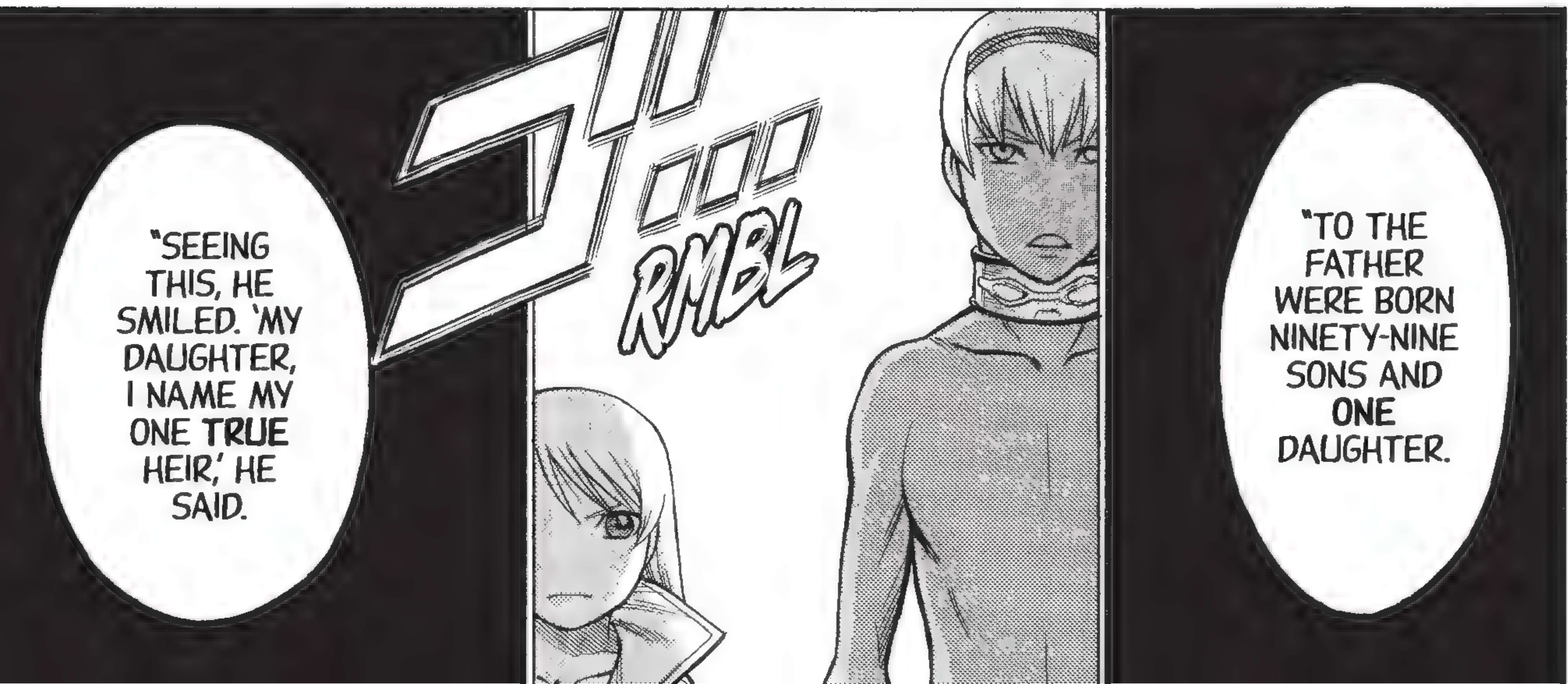
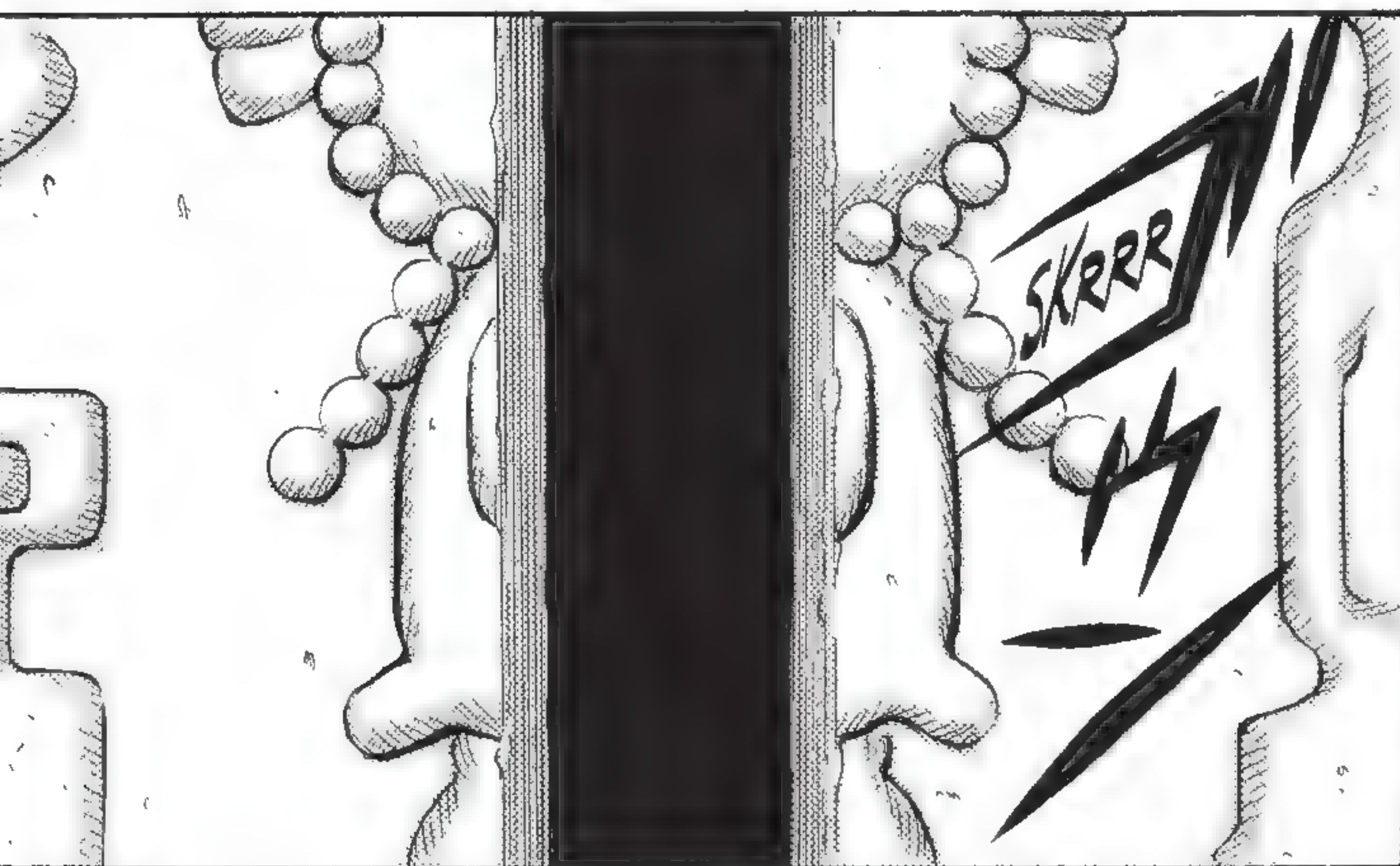
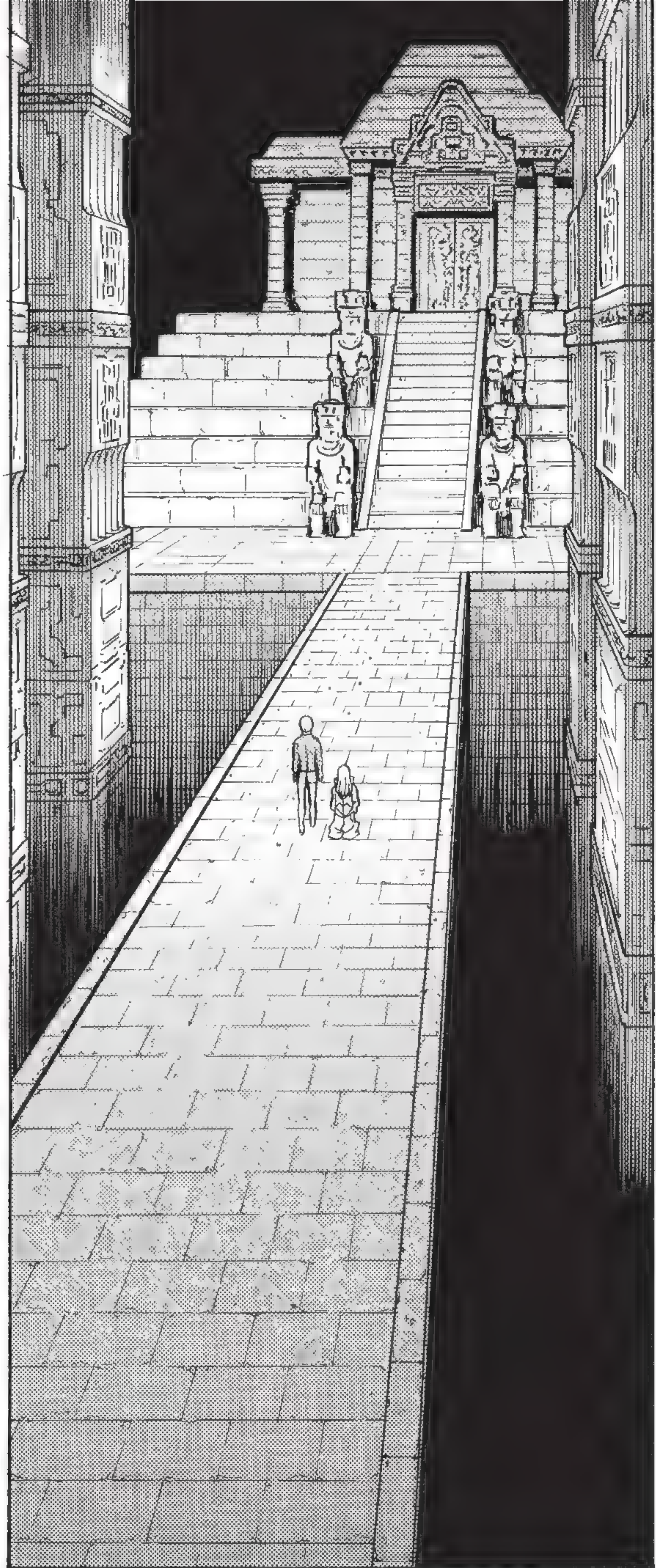
NO.
NOT
IMPOS-
SIBLE.

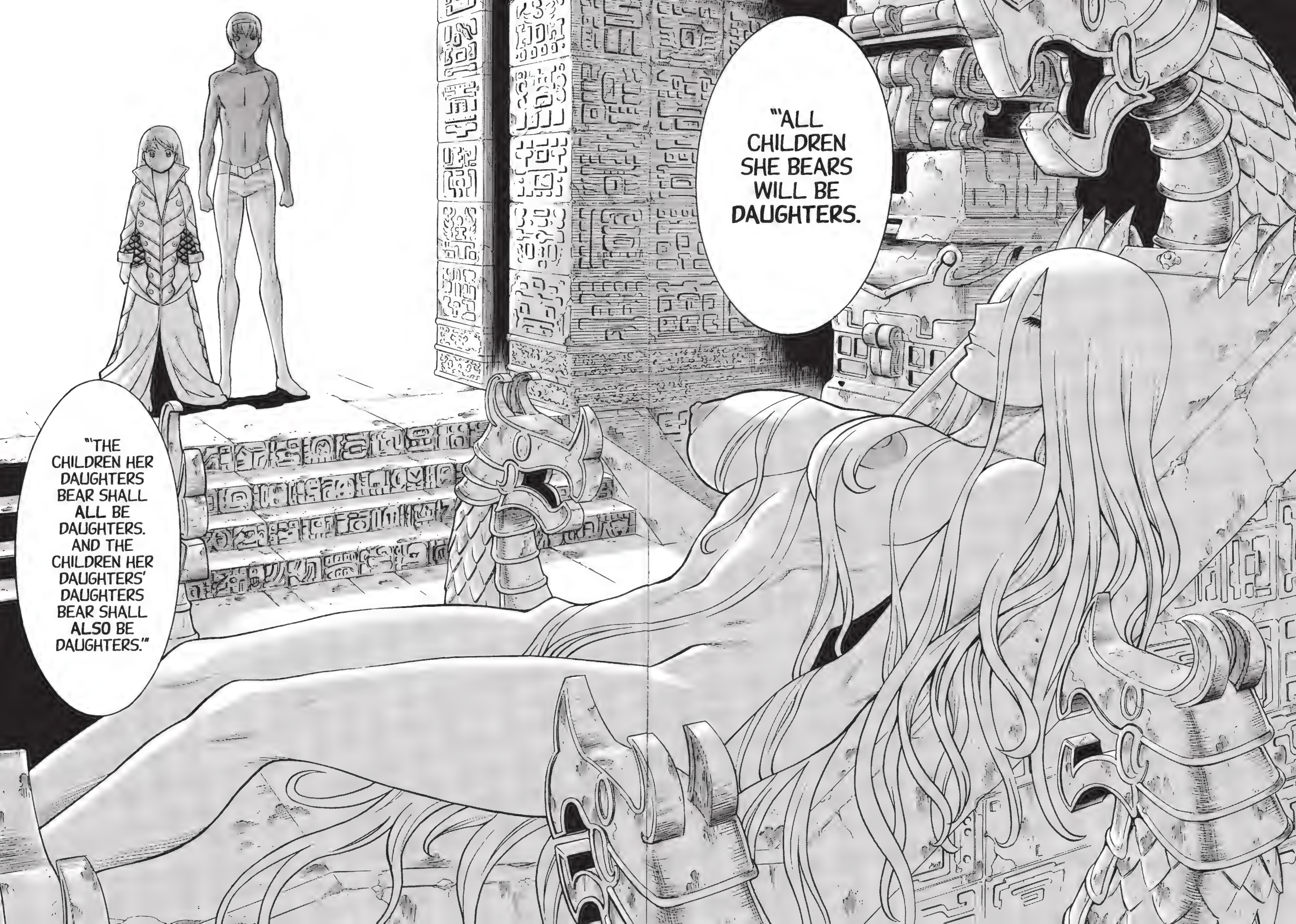


THIS IS
NECRO-
POLIS!









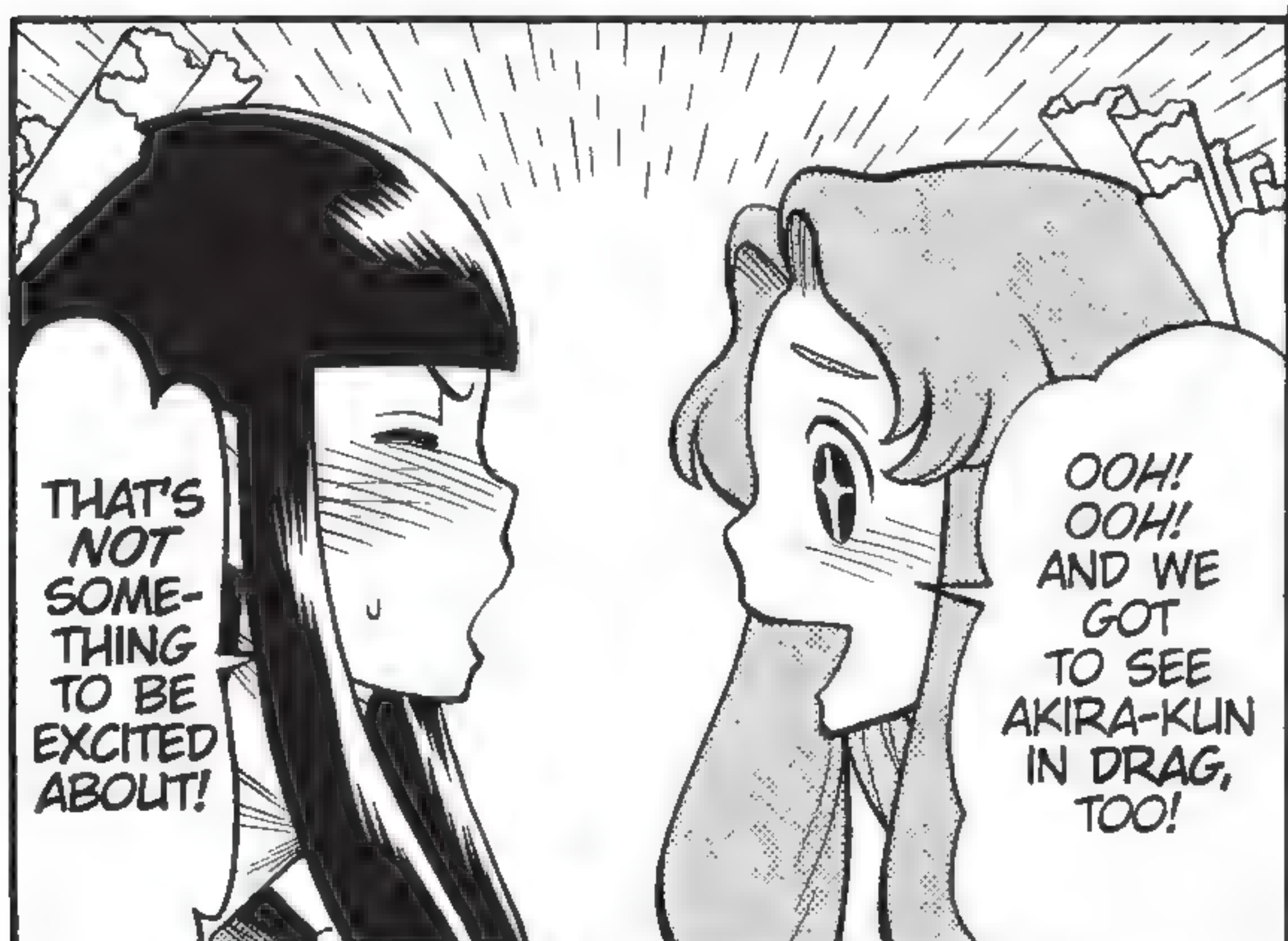
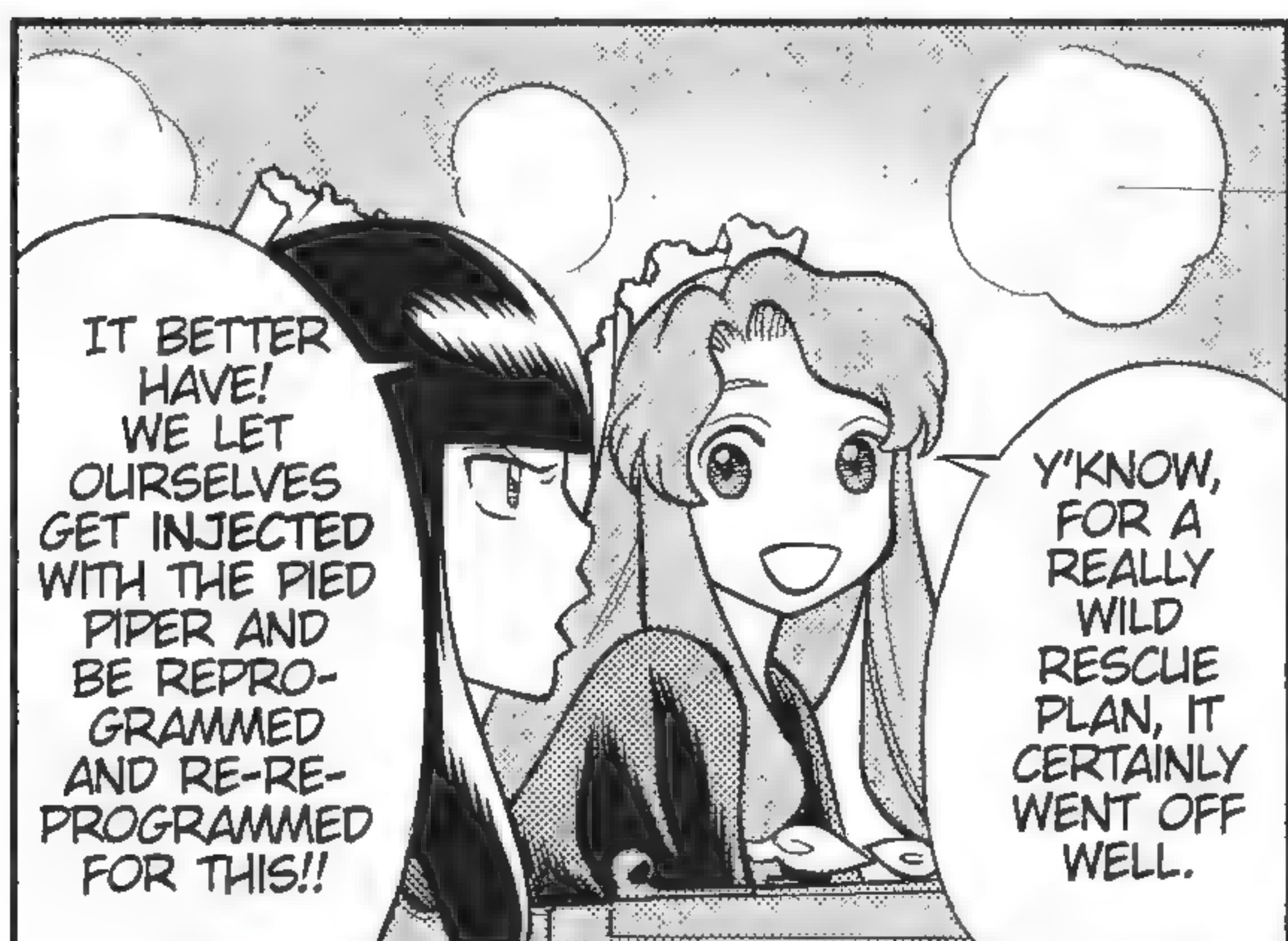
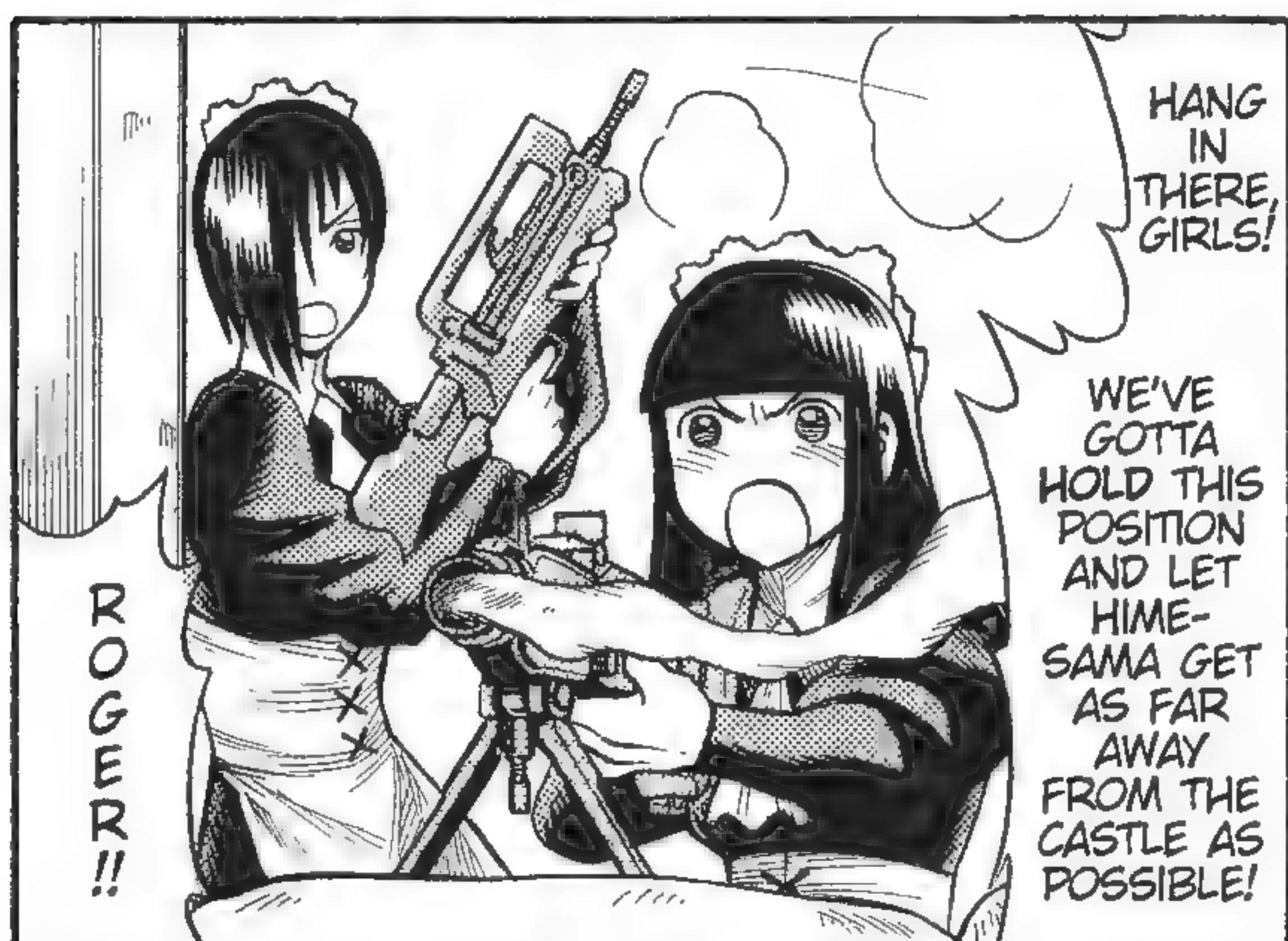
"THE
CHILDREN HER
DAUGHTERS
BEAR SHALL
ALL BE
DAUGHTERS.
AND THE
CHILDREN HER
DAUGHTERS'
DAUGHTERS
BEAR SHALL
ALSO BE
DAUGHTERS."

"ALL
CHILDREN
SHE BEARS
WILL BE
DAUGHTERS."



Dance In The Vampire Blood

TO BE CONTINUED...



DANCE with the VAMPIRE MAID





SPAK SPAK SPAK

ASSUMING THAT WE EVER DO GET TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

UGH... IT'S STARTING TO GET A LITTLE TOO HOT IN HERE FOR MY TASTES.



IT WORKED EXCELLENTLY AS CAMOUFLAGE. WASN'T THAT THE WHOLE POINT?

STILL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ABOUT THAT. WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO?

SHEESH!



Y'KNOW, THIS IS PROBABLY THE BEST TIME, SO I'M GONNA TELL YOU TWO THIS...

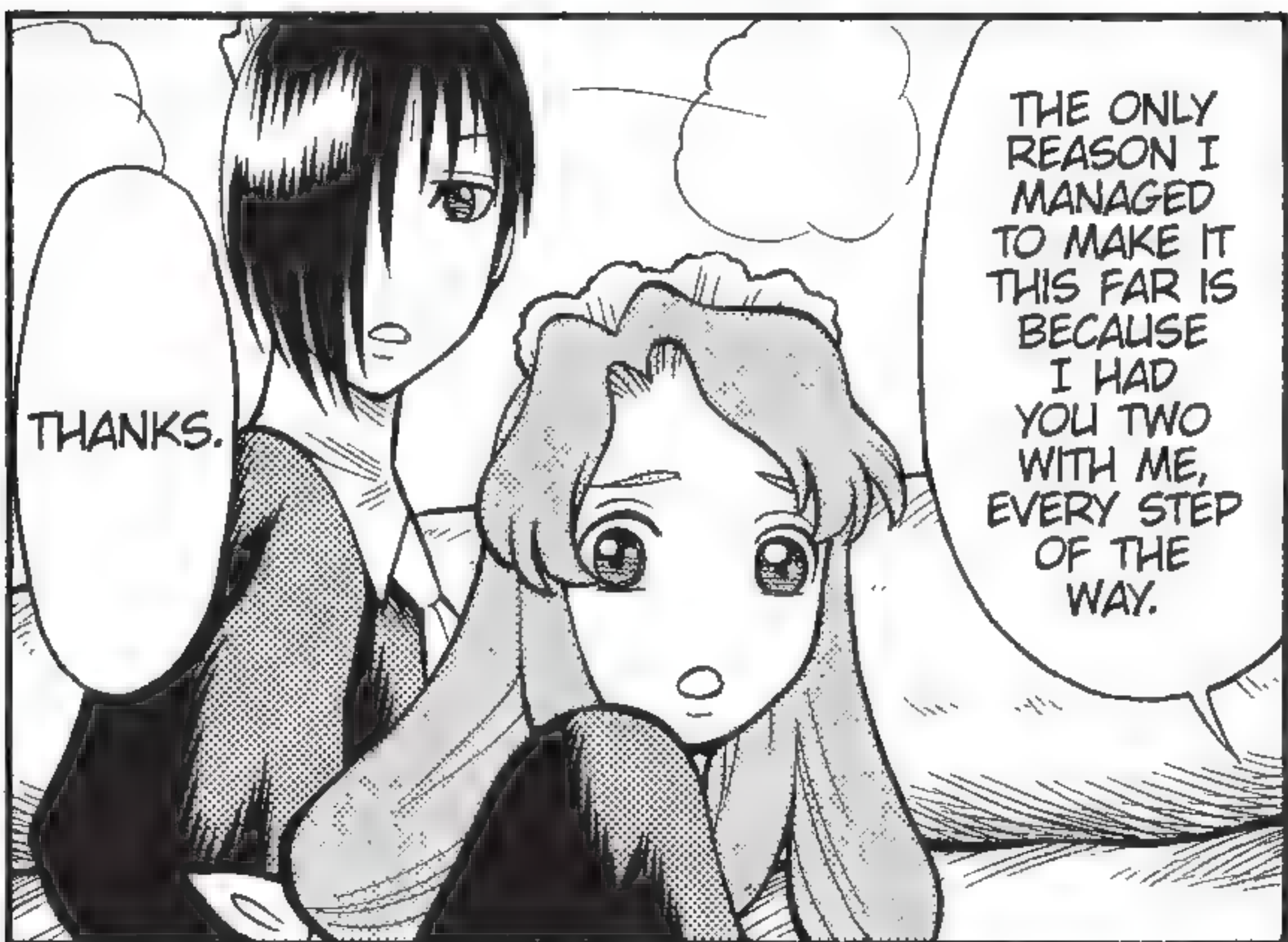
FROM THE BLIND TO NEW YORK TO THE AMAZON... WE WENT HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD, TRYING TO FIND HIME-SAMA, DIDN'T WE?



WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT THAT?!

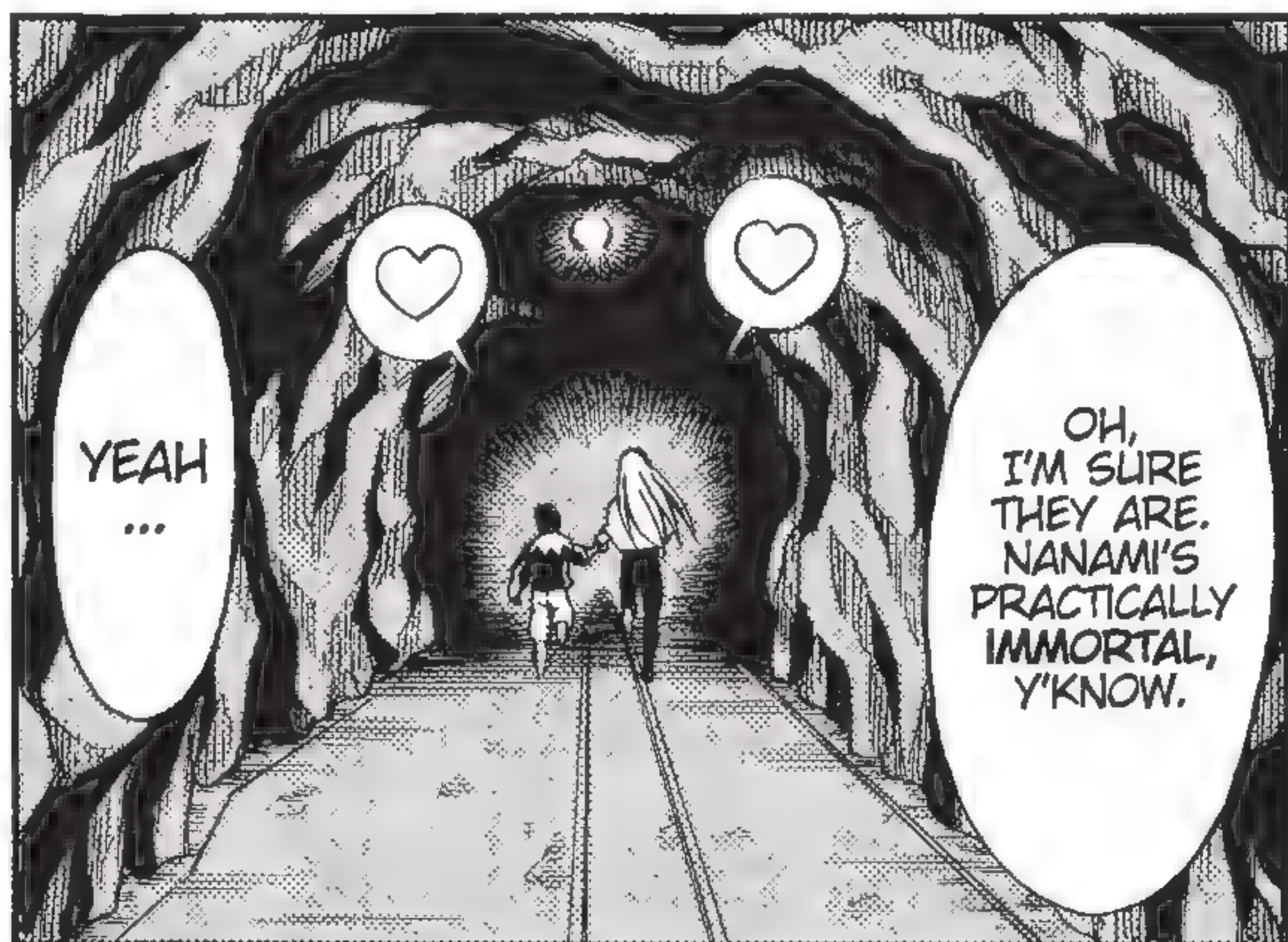
YEAH, BUT HIS LEGS LOOKED LONGER AND SEXIER THAN OURS IN THAT OUTFIT!!

I WONDER IF NANAMI-CHAN MANAGED TO FIND YU-ZURU-CHAN. I HOPE THEY'RE OKAY.



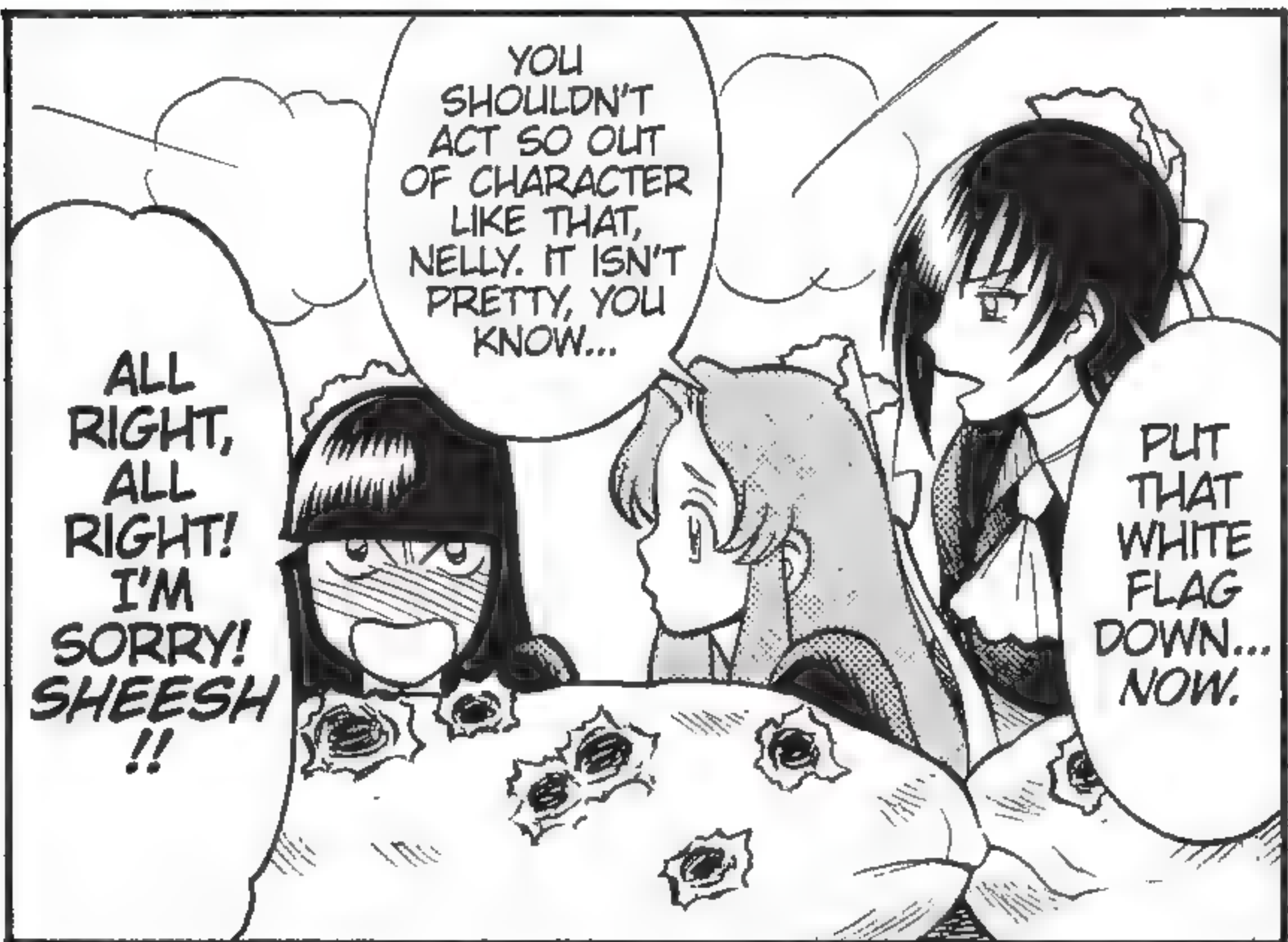
THANKS.

THE ONLY REASON I MANAGED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR IS BECAUSE I HAD YOU TWO WITH ME, EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.



YEAH ...

OH, I'M SURE THEY ARE. NANAMI'S PRACTICALLY IMMORTAL, Y'KNOW.



YOU SHOULDN'T ACT SO OUT OF CHARACTER LIKE THAT, NELLY. IT ISN'T PRETTY, YOU KNOW...

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! I'M SORRY! SHEESH!!

PUT THAT WHITE FLAG DOWN... NOW.

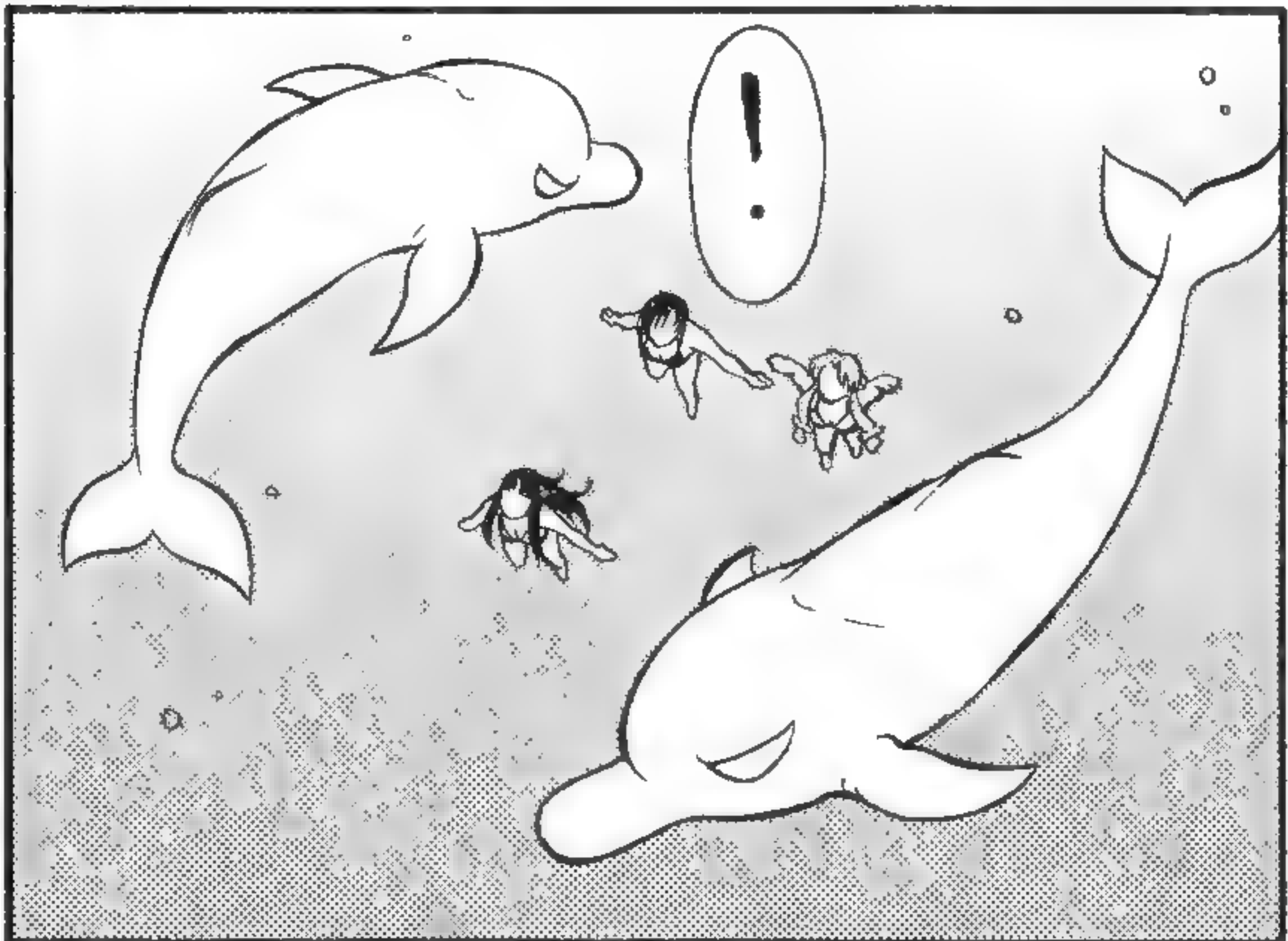
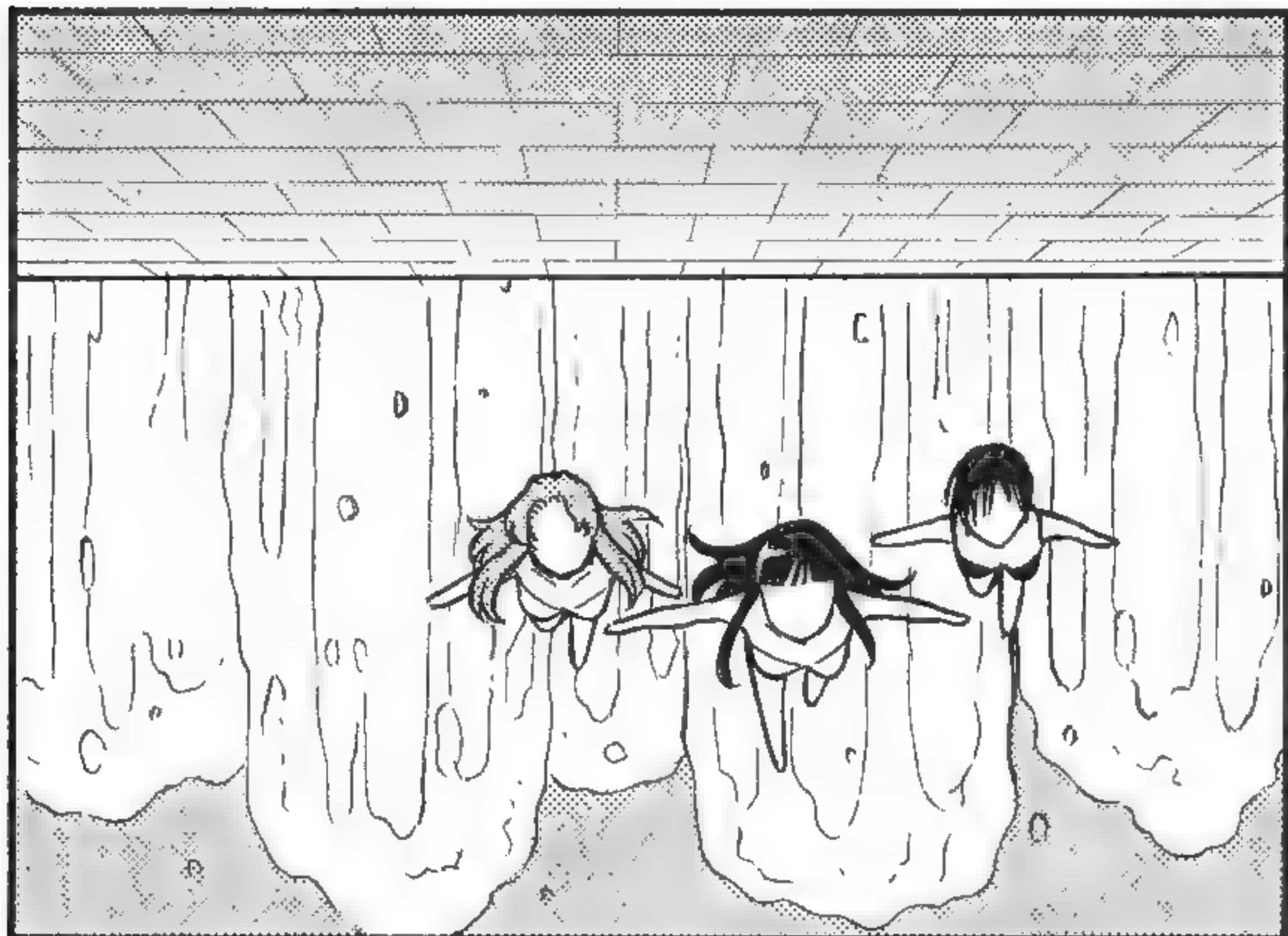


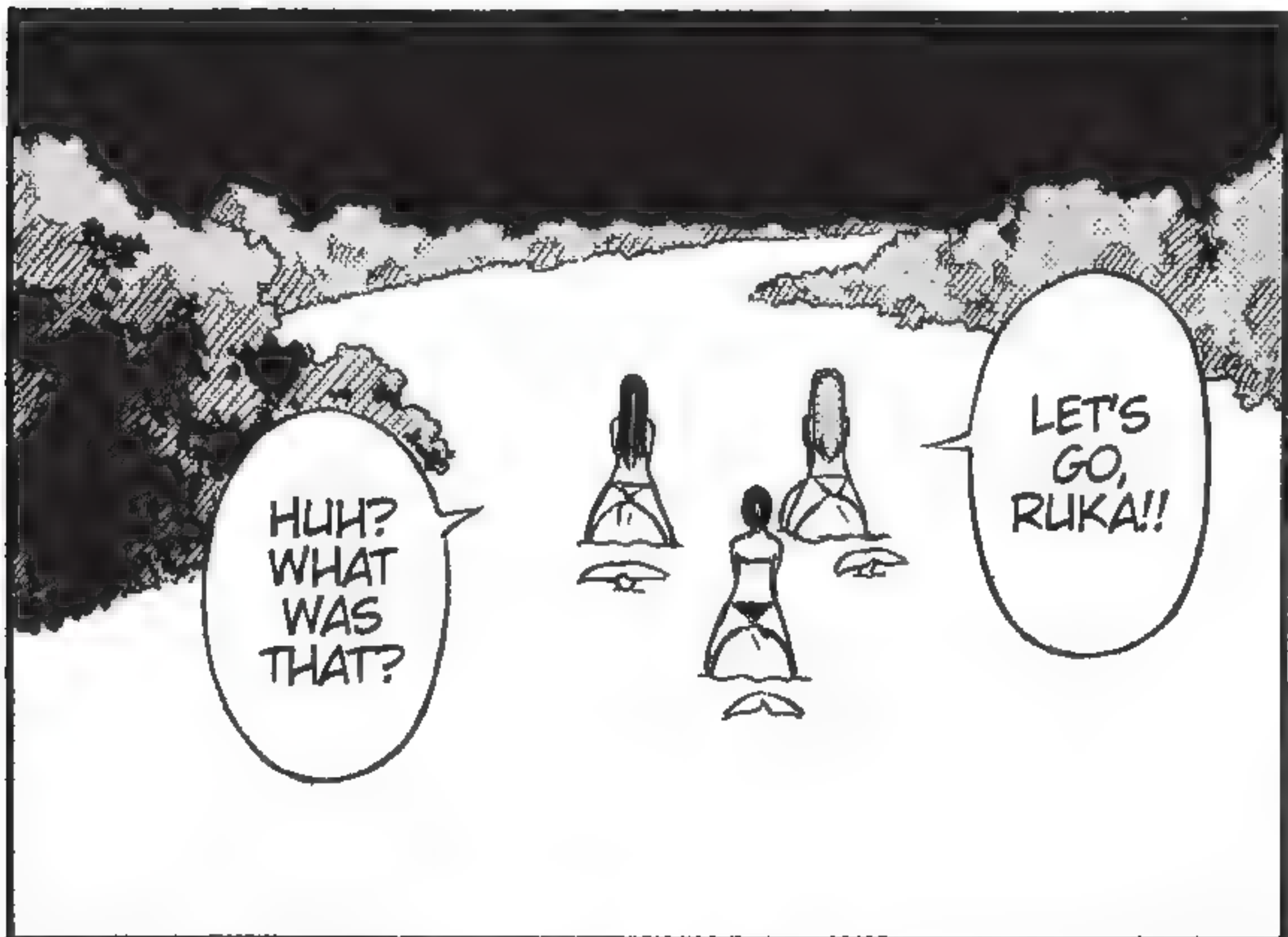
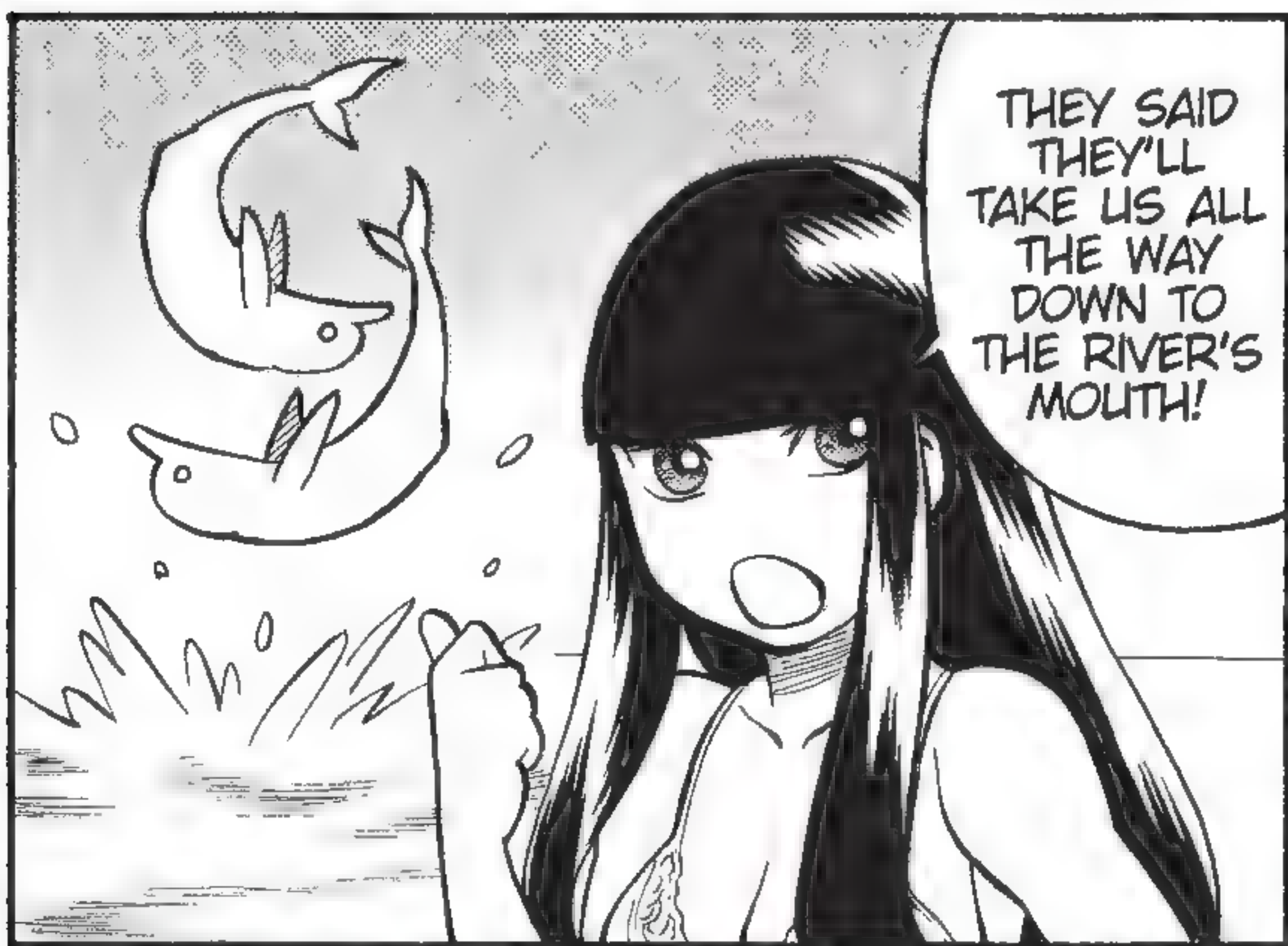
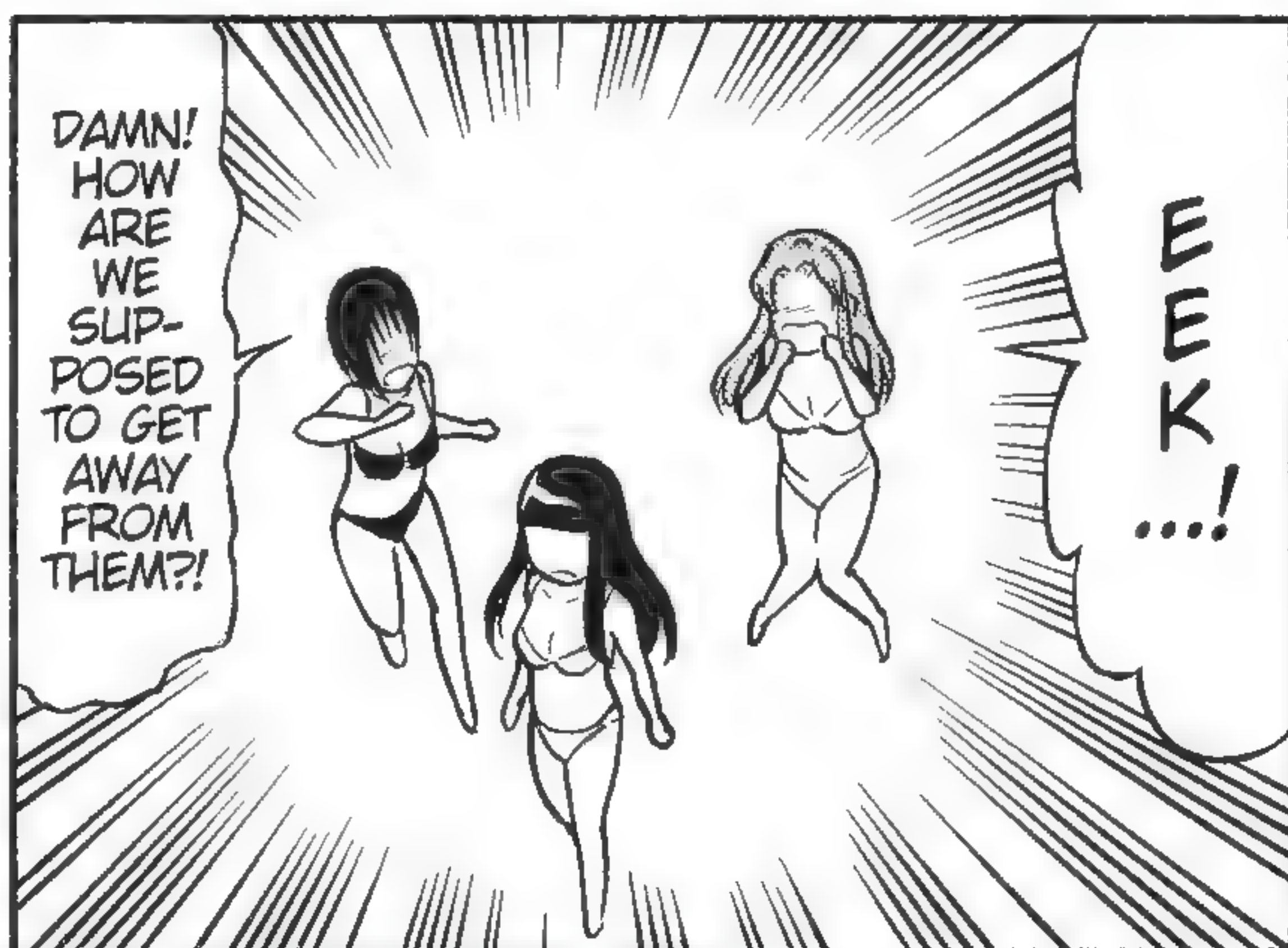
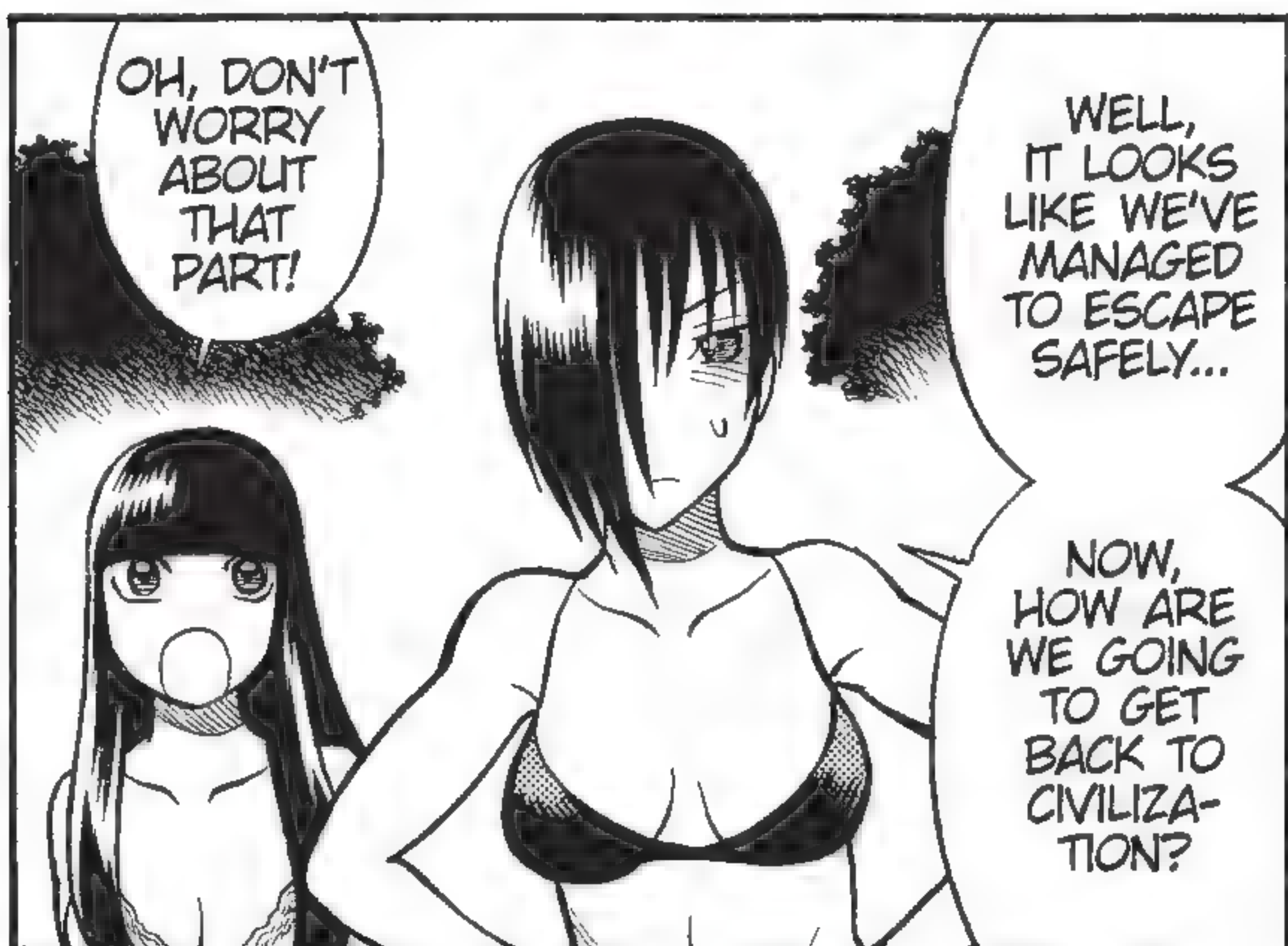
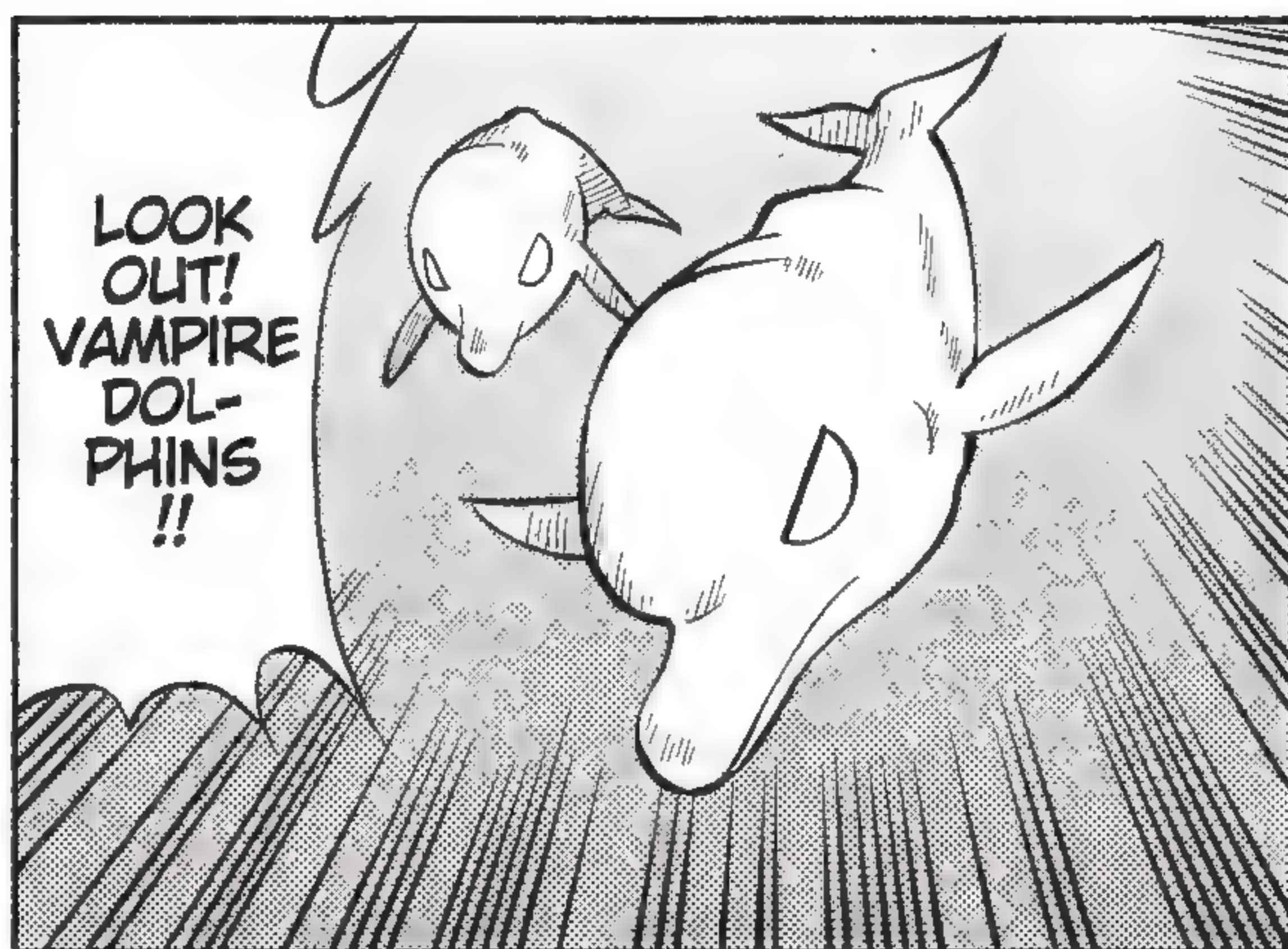
OH, YES. WE SHALL DEFINITELY HAVE TO GIVE HIM SOME EXTRA SPECIAL ATTENTION, NEXT TIME THAT WE SEE HIM.

ME, TOO.

BUT STILL ...

I HAVE A FEW CHOICE WORDS FOR YUZURU WHEN THEY MAKE IT BACK TO BASE.





TO BE CONTINUED!!

Dance In The Vampire Bund




What is it
that the
Imposter
Mina,
still ruling
the Bund,
is truly
after?

What is
going to
happen
to Akira?

What does
Duke
Borgiani
want?

DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOL. 13 coming soon!



Who is it that
was found
sleeping in the
Necropolis?

What terrible sin
has Rozenmann
committed...?

Mina Tepes
will discover
all of this and
more, in the
next volume!

Race through the depths of night with this neo-vampire chronicle!

Dance in the Vampire Bund

VOLUME 12

story &
art by **Nozomu Tamaki**

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DANCE IN THE VAMPIRE BUND VOL. 12

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This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style.
If this is your first time reading manga, you start
reading from the top right panel on each page and
take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the
numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards
at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



